THE C4 NEWSLETTER

Winter 2016 *Volume 24, Number 4*

What, if anything, is wrong with this picture? See Page 17.

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- An Interview with Colonial Specialist, Ray Williams
- Making Grown Women Cry (In a Good Way)
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- Announcements and Advertisements

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Membership questions, address changes, and dues should be sent to Charlie Rohrer at P.O. Box 25, Mountville, PA 17554. Dues are $30 regular (including 1st class mailing of the *Newsletter within the US*) and $40 (for 1st class mailing outside the US); $10 for junior members (under 18 residing in the US) and $15 (under 19 residing outside the US).

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PRESIDENT'S CORNER

(Jack Howes)

As the incoming C4 President, I want to particularly thank Jim Rosen for all the hard work he has put in to get the club to where it is today. There was a lot of hard sailing over the last six years. Jim has done such an excellent job of leading the organization that there is really not much work for your new National VP, Craig McDonald, and me to do…Well, maybe there are few things to work on! One particular aspect that is working well is our partnership with Stack's-Bowers for our joint SB-C4 colonial auction at our fall convention. We have been in Baltimore now for five years. If you have not made it to a fall C4 convention, please put it on your calendar now and start planning to come to Baltimore in 2017. It will be from November 9-12, 2017. You are missing a terrific event. We have consistently had excellent speakers, a terrific auction and a cool gathering place for C4 members to meet and socialize.

Our joint auction with Stack's-Bowers was a success again this year. For the second time in five years, we had C4 members submit coins that hammered for over $500,000. This pushed the club up to a bonus level in our contract with Stack's-Bowers. **Please consider consigning coins to the fall Baltimore C4 auction.**

The publication committee is working with authors on several new books. The book by multiple authors on contemporary counterfeit halfpence that circulated widely in North America is very likely to be published this year. I can't put an exact date yet but I believe it will be available for year-end gifts. **Please support the club's education efforts by purchasing C4 published books!**

We revamped our website last year. It is a big improvement over where we were. But we still want to make further improvements. You should see some of those happening during the year.

We continue to try to help improve the Newman portal as an engine for numismatic research. To that end the Newman portal will index the content of past C4 books. This does not mean the books themselves will be available online but rather that there will be a digital index of the books' content.

This issue will be out late January. The EAC show in Philadelphia is April 20-23 and Ray Williams is the program chair. I hope many of you have a chance to attend. EAC is willing to provide one or two cases. Anyone interested in this should contact Craig McDonald right away.

Don't forget to get out and attend a local club or coin show. Consider giving a talk on colonial coins or putting together an exhibit!

One of the things I like to do is, photograph coins, so I am going to try to put at least one image into all of these president's messages. For this issue it is not a photograph I took. It is however, from one of our recently published books.

Does anyone know why the following French 1/12 Ecu might be considered a North American colonial? Email me if you think you know. In fact, please email with any questions you have about colonial coins. Or send me images. I will publish photos of the most interesting. And in all cases, I will do my best to provide answers!

Jack Howes
C4 President
jackhowes@yahoo.com

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EDITOR'S TWO ~~CENTS~~ COPPERS

In this issue, we look back on the 2016 convention and welcome a new slate of officers in whom we have great confidence and for whom we extend best wishes of continued success. And, in this issue, we are suspending the unwritten rule against publishing more than one article from a given author. Why? Because some articles are time sensitive and because great articles that need to be seen have been skipped over in the past because of space constraints. From time to time in future issues, we will also be re-running "classic" articles from the past that newer members may not have seen. As always, we really need new articles to be submitted – by both experienced and new authors. C4N is only as good as YOU make it. Having said all that, we sincerely hope that you enjoy this issue. Some suggestions have been received regarding the physical format of the newsletter. The current, unbound format was chosen several years ago, for very good reasons that, perhaps, have changed. If you have opinions, suggestions or inspirations on this, or anything else regarding *The C4 Newsletter*, please contact the editor. - WUN

MINUTES OF THE C4 BUSINESS MEETING

Baltimore, November 5, 2016

After introductions by attendees, the meeting was called to order by President Jim Rosen.

President Rosen summarized last year's annual meeting and thanked Frank Steimle for taking the minutes. A motion was passed to accept the minutes. In Frank's absence, the minutes of the 2016 meeting were taken by Jay Knipe, incoming Secretary.

Treasurer's Report: Charlie Rohrer, Treasurer, reported we currently had 377 members and the club assets were expected to be ~$110K by years' end (compared to $106,862.77 at the end of 2015).

C4 Newsletter: The Spring 2016 newsletter was the first produced by new Editor Will Nipper (with Syd Martin serving as Associate and Past Editor). Will reported that, to allow time for publishing, the deadline for submission of articles for the quarterly issues will be the first of October, January, April and July. Some discussion occurred regarding ways to encourage new authors to prepare articles for publication and ways to ways to show recent authors that their article was appreciated (such as making an effort to personally thank them for contributions).

Publications: Dave Menchell, Publications Chairman, noted that the Abel Buell biography (Chris McDowell) and the French Colonials book (Syd Martin) have each sold ~80-85 copies. A general discussion of the utility of print-on-demand printing followed. This method would be very cost-effected for our club, as the usual traditional publisher print run is about 250 copies (cost ~7-8K). It was agreed that print-on-demand would serve the club's interest, as long as the quality was comparable to traditional printing (that was generally agreed to be the case). Dave mentioned that other books are being prepared by C4 members, including works on St. Patrick tokens, Lord Baltimore coins and counterfeits. The comment was also made that all proceeds from the sale of the R. Retz Fugio book are returned to the club, for the Rob Retz Memorial Fund.

Convention: Dennis Wierzba reported that the new format for the social gathering/meal, whereby each attendee pays $25 for the cost of the meal, seemed to be successful, with a total of 55 tickets sold. Dennis will work with Sheraton personnel to evaluate the food quantity needed for next years' event. All in attendance agreed that the Sheridan provided an excellent meeting room for the Thursday evening gathering and educational program. Also, all continued to be pleased with the overall venue of the Sheraton, including safety, convenience, meeting room and bourse space. The proximity of colonial dealers to both the C4 and EAC tables enhanced interactions and the socialization at the convention.

Library: Leo Shane, our librarian, indicated that there is an average of 1 request per month for material from the C4 library. Details of the Library holdings and shipping procedures/costs are periodically published in the newsletter. There was a brief discussion

of the possible impact of the Newman Numismatic Portal on the C4 Library. It was generally agreed that, even if some existing difficulties with online searching and copyright issues are overcome, there will always be a desire to obtain and use a physical book.

Exhibits: There were three outstanding exhibits at our club table this year: a set of obverse and reverse examples of nearly all NJ dies arranged to match early Maris plates (arranged by Buell Ish); an extensive Fugio display by Pierre Fricke; and Dave Menchell's presentation of religious-themed medals connected with the Great Awakening. Ideas for future exhibits should be directed to Craig McDonald.

Outreach/Education: The educational program following the Thursday social gathering included presentations by Len Augsburger and Joel Orosz on the topic of 1792 coinage, Syd Martin on the French coinage struck specifically for America and Chuck Heck covering the life of Charles Clapp, highlighting the influence of Charles on his brother George and the nature of their collections. Presentations on Friday included that by Mike Shutty on bent and folded coins excavated at Jamestown and other historical sites and a discussion of the varieties and attribution Castorland Jetons given by Chester Sullivan and Joel Esposito. All talks were excellent and well attended.

All ideas for future speakers and topics should be directed to Leo Shane.

C4 Auction: The response of attendees regarding the auction was quite positive. The earlier start time (4:00 PM) was very welcome, allowing a more reasonable end-time. The buffet meal was well received. The catalog, especially with its indication of the C4 affiliation was considered a plus for the club and the conduct of the Stacks-Bowers staff was viewed as very professional. The club will have the same contract with SB for 2017 and then will renegotiate the arrangement for 2018-2010.

Website: The Board of Directors approved a motion for the club to continue its agreement with Brian for another year at $125/month which will enable him to rebuild and maintain the website during that period.

New Business: Chris McDowell will form and chair a committee whose purpose will be to reach out to young numismatists (YNs) to inform them about colonials and encourage their membership in C4. Chris shared ideas about involving Boy Scouts (through coin collecting merit badge) to YNs via the ANA. Any ideas anyone has should be sent to Chris.

Stan Stephens discussed a conversation he had with Steve Ellsworth about encouraging C4 members to participate and exhibit more at ANA conventions. Syd Martin expanded on the discussion by indicating that it could be possible to create a new exhibit award, the "Colonial Category." The only cost to the club would be that for the plaque presented to the winner (~$500). Stan and Syd were charged with following up with Steve Ellsworth and other ANA personnel as needed.

Buell Ish thanked all who provided coins for the 2016 NJ exhibit.

Chris McDowell thanked the club for its support of his efforts to place a plaque on William Coley's grave in Otselic, NY. Chris reiterated that the cost of the plaque was covered by Gary Trudgen, not C4.

Remembrances: Jim Rosen reminded all of the untimely and tragic passing of Goeffrey Stevens.

New Officers: Jim Rosen introduced all of the newly elected officers in attendance, and lastly handed over his role as President to Jack Howes amidst applause for his service and numerous photographs.

A motion was made and passed to adjourn this year's C4 business meeting

Respectfully submitted,
Jay Knipe, C4 Secretary

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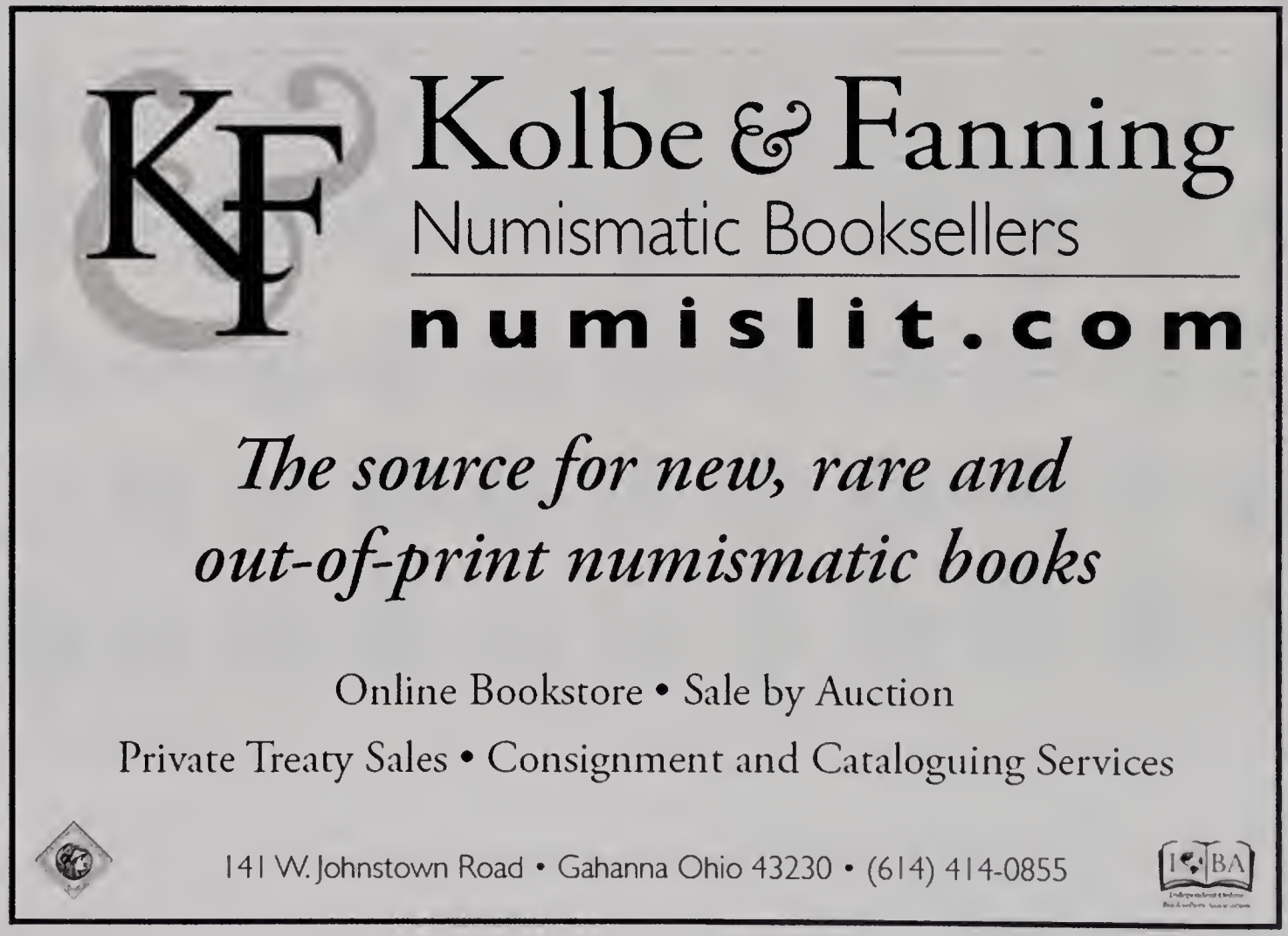
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C-4 Club Exhibit from the 2016 convention: A nearly complete NJ variety set. Multiple contributors. Coordinated by Buell Ish. Jack Howes photo.

[Editor's Note: The following book review was originally published in The E-Sylum, an electronic publication of the Numismatic Bibliomania Society, Vol. 19, Number 42, October 16, 2016, at http://www.coinbooks.org/esylum_v19n42a03.html. It is reprinted here, through the grace and courtesy of its author and E-Sylum Editor, Wayne Homren.]

BOOK REVIEW: MEDALLIC WASHINGTON

(John Kraljevich)

Washingtoniana has enjoyed a central place in American numismatics for more than a century and a half. Despite this, its literature has had high points and low points. James Ross Snowden's 1861 *A Description of the Medals of Washington* was the first high point. That initial entry into the field came with the imprimateur of the United States Mint and all the stature that came with it. Only an extraordinary effort could bump it from its perch, but that effort came just two decades later, when William Spohn Baker released his *Medallic Portraits of Washington* in 1885. Numismatists never took to Baker's *Engraved Portraits of Washington*, published in 1880, but Baker's book on coins, medals, and tokens became the bible in the field.

Like the original bible, Baker's work reached the masses only after a masterful editing. George Fuld's 1965 edition maintained the dignity and layout of the original, but added illustrations, useful marginalia on rarity and provenance, an excellent introduction,

and a useful suffix on compositions and values. The book was worthy of Fuld's expertise and breathed a new life into a then-dusty tome.

If Krause Publications giveth to the world of Washingtoniana with the 1965 Fuld edition, it tooketh away with the 1993 Fuld-Rulau debacle. Rife with errors, laid out with the energy and discernment of a toddler running through a pile of autumn leaves, it introduced chaos and misinformation into a field that had previously enjoyed organization and scholarship. While the world of exonumia collecting bloomed at the dawn of the 21st century, the most august of American exonumic specialties remained lashed to an anchor bound in colorfully decorated boards. Only freeing itself from the Rulau-Fuld book would allow the world of Washingtoniana to flourish once more.

The first time I met Neil Musante, I told him he had written the perfect book. Neil's work on the products of Springfield, Massachusetts engraver John Adams Bolen was a simple masterpiece: perfectly organized, nicely illustrated, compactly bound and delivered, replete with original research that answered every conceivable question. As I didn't know Neil when he wrote it, I could only imagine it had sprung from his hands like Athena from the forehead of Zeus: fully formed and damn near flawless.

Having become friends with Neil, I now have greater insight into his research and writing process. He is indefatigable, an easier laurel to lay at his feet than the word is to pronounce aloud. He flipped every stone, photographed every collection, spoke to every specialist, and considered every theory. It took him years. The product of his Herculean labors would embarrass Baker and offend Snowden, as he has neatly outdone them both.

Neil's book is big. Too big, if you ask me, if only because I yearn for new enthusiasts of Washingtoniana to have a paperback that will engage and edify them for the price of a pizza. Neil's work could not be so restrained, and one volume became two. Editing the books for length would have affected their subject mastery, so while I rue the fact that new collectors are unlikely to plunk down the price tag, I'm glad to have every single page. All the standard information is there: artists (some newly identified) and minters, designs and compositions, rarity and notable offerings. The special information is there too, with easy to read storytelling and fascinating context on each medal and raison d'etre. Neil included Rulau's sometimes fanciful list of compositions, a reflection of his easygoing personality as much as anything. When Rulau received reports of a medal existing in white metal, lead, pewter, and spelter, he liked to list four different alloys instead of recognizing four different descriptions of medals that were otherwise identical. It's a small complaint, but one that may continue to trip up perfectionists and completists.

Other faults are few. Neil and I have some disagreements on the histories of particular medals; it is fortunate that dueling was no longer an option when we discussed whether the Sansom medal or the Halliday medal that copied it came first. Neil will probably point out some typos, but no one else is apt to care. There are some things that smell like fantasies to me that Neil includes out of a sense of responsibility to those who have included them in the past. Future collectors will undoubtedly be glad to have them in the book rather than melted into a single large decorative lawn ornament, as I would prefer.

Snowden wrote a foundational reference whose usefulness will endure. Baker wrote a landmark that has defined how collectors approach a daunting field. Musante has created the ultimate work on the medals of George Washington, a magnum opus whose writing should be appreciated, but not without recognizing the research and organization that allows it to shine so brightly.

Sturdily bound and beautifully produced in England, Musante's Medallic Washington is a joy to hold despite its ironic nation of origin. The price tag will only seem steep to those who haven't seen the book. No one who professes any interest in Washingtoniana that surpasses the most trivial curiosity can live without it. My sincerest hope is that this book sells out promptly and inspires Mr. Musante to tackle further briar patches in the field of American medals. Few authors in American numismatic history have managed to handle difficult material as deftly or publish a reference as worthy of their labors.

Neil Musante's two-volume work *Medallic Washington* is now available for sale. Published August in Great Britain by Spink, the initial small allotment sent by air was quickly exhausted at the A.N.A. Convention and only now has the bulk shipment been received. In two blue cloth volumes, crown quarto, 850 pages with several thousand color illustrations, *Medallic Washington* lists and describes with historical background 1200 tokens, medalets and medals produced through the centennial of Washington's inauguration. The material has been completely rearranged and reorganized as reflected by the new GW-xx numbering system which should set the standard for years to come.

The set is available exclusively from the undersigned at $175.00 postpaid. A special edition by the Harcourt Bindery is planned. Details will be available on inquiry.

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THE COLONIAL NEWSLETTER

Founded in 1960, *The Colonial Newsletter (CNL)* publishes scholarship on early American numismatics. *CNL* focuses on the coinages produced by the states during the U.S.' Confederation period, and also investigates a variety of other specie.

Last September, numismatic literature expert David Fanning listed his top 10 numismatic publications of the 20th century. *The Colonial Newsletter* ranked 1st among journals, and 5th in overall publications.*

The next issue of *CNL* will feature a typed transcript of the original 1788 Connecticut Mint Ledger Book; this recently discovered handwritten document is sure to be studied for generations as it provides first-hand insight into the inner-workings of the Connecticut Mint at a time when Fugio coppers were being produced under contract with the federal government. Later this year, *CNL* will publish typed transcripts of the 1787 Connecticut Mint Day Book and other important original documents pertaining to the Connecticut Mint. The April 2017 issue of *CNL* will also feature an article on Hogge money that brings to light new information on this coinage and also recent numismatic discoveries at archeological digs at or near the Jamestown Colony.

CNL is published three times a year by the American Numismatic Society (ANS) in April, August, and December.

Subscribe to *CNL*: http://numismatics.org/store/cnl/. $45 for ANS Members; $60 for non-Members.

Contact the editor, Christopher McDowell, at
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* http://conaconclub.com/category/whats-new-with-cona/

A HOARD OF COUNTERFEIT PISTAREENS

(Marcus Mayhugh)

A small hoard of 48 counterfeit pistareens was recently acquired by the author. A pistareen is a provincial Spanish two-*reales* coin of debased silver that circulated extensively in the Southern colonies of America and in the West Indies during the 18th century. Each and every coin in this group is a counterfeit intended to defraud and deceive. The group was purchased from a Spanish dealer who would say only that he had purchased them as a group from an auction.

Why this group was put together and by whom will probably never be known. It is clear from the start that this group was not a collection, but rather an accumulation. It may be that low grade, worn out coins were culled from circulation to rid commerce of their nuisance. In short, these may constitute a contemporary group of counterfeits destined to be cancelled or destroyed. Of course this is pure speculation. This pistareen group could have been put together at any time, but the question is, why would anyone go to the trouble? The coins hold little numismatic value, even for those of us off the beaten path of mainstream colonial collecting. Nor do they have any intrinsic value. Most look to be silvered brass. The group does, however, provide a tiny glimpse into the fraudulent coinage of the 18th century, whether from Spain or elsewhere, and represents a good study group. For example, the following empirical observations can be made from the hoard.

The first thing that is noticed about the group is the amount of wear the coins have received. Many are worn practically smooth, and, in fact, several are, appearing only as silvered discs. Fortunately, a good proportion of the pieces have enough detail remaining, despite the wear, to allow them to be identified by either date or ruler. The fact that the pieces have received so much wear and damage (i.e., cuts, scrapes ,scratches, etc.) leaves little doubt that they were readily accepted in commerce at one time. A more wretched group of coins can hardly be imagined.

The second thing that is recognizable about the hoard is that the majority of the coins are pistareens, specifically, cross pistareens. Excluding five unrecognizable discs, all but two of the pieces are cross pistareens. The two outliers are bust pistareens of Carlos III. The group does not contain any fractions or other varieties. Cross pistareens were produced between the years 1716 and 1771, and are not to be confused with earlier, full weight Spanish mainland two-*reales*. Pistareens were valued in world commerce at 20 cents, opposed to the New World two-*reales* that were worth 25 cents. Because of their debasement, pistareens escaped the melting pot and remained in circulation, especially within the United States and the Caribbean Islands.

Cross pistareens were struck spanning the reigns of four Spanish kings -- The majority under Philip V who ruled for more than 45 years, interrupted only by the nine month reign of his son, Luis, who died shortly after his coronation in 1724. The other two monarchs who struck pistareens were Fernandus VI and Carlos III. This counterfeit pistareen group is somewhat unusual in that most of the attributed coins can be assigned to

two rulers: Philip V, which is understandable considering his long tenure as ruler, and to Carlos III. The attributed pieces of Philip V all date before 1723. Essentially, these are very early, and very late dated, counterfeit pistareens. The exact breakdown is rather problematic as some coins bear only partial legends and partial dates, and nothing else. In the case where a date can be made out, and not the ruler, that coin is assigned to the ruler of that time period. The problem is that forgers were rarely accurate in their descriptions, and sometimes erroneously (or intentionally?) dated coins to the wrong ruler and time period.

Of the 48 pieces in the group, 31 can fairly well be attributed to a date, or, to a ruler. The remainder, including the disks, can be identified as pistareens by weight, size, design, and remnants of dates and assayers. Fifteen of the coins can be attributed to Philip V, 10 to Carlos III, 2 to Luis, and 2 are designated to Fernandus. And then there are the two bust pieces, one of which, on closer examination, could possibly be regal.

Abnormalities in the Hoard

That all of the dated Philip V pieces have dates prior to 1723 is rather interesting. Even more so is the large number of Carlos III coins, nearly one third of the attributable pieces, an extremely high percentage of the whole. It would be hard to imagine randomly selecting 31 counterfeit pistareens and having ten of them belong to Carlos III's reign. Counterfeit pistareens of Carlos III are far scarcer than those of Philip, considering that Philip struck coins 10 years longer than Carlos, and at four different mints compared to just two mints for Carlos. Since imitators chose the most common of coins to foist on the public, it is only logical that they would produce more coins from Philip's rule. Could this abnormality, the large number of Carlos' coins, coupled with the fact that the Philip pieces bear just three dates (1718, 1721 and 1722) be linked to a common source or workshop???

Delving deeper into fake pistareens assigned to Carlos reveals another anomaly, six, possibly seven of these pieces appear to be dated 1761. Now this is definitely odd, since there are only 14 solidly dated coins in the group. That half of them would have the same date is remarkable. This is way too many, and could reinforce the "same workshop" theory.

In examining the 1761-dated coins, it becomes clear that they all exhibit the same wear pattern -- A very strong strike in the date area, and in the HISPANARIUM legend, with few design features elsewhere, except for mere outlines. In some cases, the obverse side (the side without the date) is completely blank. Finally, a light comes on…these coins are not counterfeits waiting to be cancelled…these are counterfeits that have already been cancelled.

Counterfeit pistareens representative of the hoard. Photo by author.

This would go a long way toward explaining the blank disks and five bent pieces. Going back over the coins and disregarding thoughts about wear, they now appear to have received some sort of dramatic stress. Large areas on the coins seem to have been completely rolled or scrubbed off of the planchet, while leaving strong design elements behind in protected areas. Looking at the two coins of Luis I, the obverses are almost totally blank except for the letters in his title, CUS on one coin, and ICUS on the other. As with the 1761 dates, it would be very unusual for two coins to wear nearly the same in the exact spots. In short, the counterfeits appear to have had the design planed off mechanically. Would this have been done to insure the coins could no longer enter circulation? Was it done to obtain new disks for striking? How was it done? Why not just melt the coins down? There are lots of questions that will probably never be answered concerning this hoard.

It is a shame that the coins received this cancellation process, whatever it may have been, for this group was made up of some very intriguing and diverse pieces. Several of the coins were made from hand-cut dies and exhibit those fantastic errors and blunders that make counterfeit coins so interesting. For example, one undated piece of Carlos II has enough obverse detail remaining to show that the numeral II denomination does not appear anywhere on the coin. Instead, there is an "S" in its place and an upside "G" where the "R" of *reales* should be. An "S" appears for the mint, which could stand for Seville, but where the assayer should be is an upside down "M," another fantasy designation. A second coin is almost completely blank, except on the reverse where the date (1)758, is the only thing that is legible. On the obverse where the King's name should appear is the nonsensical legend "REX . REX" and nothing else. One coin has only the legend HISPANARIUM remaining on the planchet and it is spelled ISPAUMARUUM. These are all very desirable errors that are appealing to collectors.

In summary, a fairly large group of counterfeit pistareens was acquired that exhibit

unusual amounts of wear. The rather large number of coins from the reign of Carlos III, and the preponderance of pieces date 1761, may indicate the coins came from a common source. Closer inspection of the coins leads the author to conclude that the huge amount of design detail missing from the coins' surfaces was not necessarily due to wear, but perhaps was removed by some sort of mechanical process in an attempt to cancel the coins. The exact nature and method employed to achieve this is not known at the time.

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After the auction…At the 2016 C4 Convention in Baltimore, a group of C4 members unwinding at the Pratt Street Ale House. Clockwise, from lower left: Bruce Smith, Jeff Rock, Chris McDowell, Buell Ish, Wade Cole, Roger Siboni, Syd Martin, Vicken Yegparian, Andrew, Leo Shane, Kayla Schlemmer, Mitch Mitchell. Photo courtesy of Buell Ish and Kayla Schlemmer.

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A STORY OF A CURIOUS "RYDER 4-C MASSACHUSETTS HALF CENT"

(Jack D. Young)

As introduction, I have been a member of Early American Coppers (EAC) since 2002 and C4 since 2016. I joined EAC's Copper Notes Facebook page a couple of years ago, due to a run-in I had with an eBay seller trying to pass off what I labeled "Chinese Cartoon Coins" (coins with caricature portraits that don't match any known large cent variety) as genuine and using EAC member names fictitiously to try and create credibility for them. We argued up to the point of him threatening me and eBay removing his listings and him as a seller.

In the fall of 2015 fellow EAC'er, Kevin Vinton, alerted the Copper Notes group to an apparent deceptive fake 1798 large cent, changing how many of us view the hobby going forward! From the discussions prompted in that forum and the following *Penny Wise* (*PW*, EAC's quarterly newsletter) articles written by him and Bill Eckberg (January, 2016 issue) we suddenly became aware of a new level of "struck counterfeits" (Actually I've been told the correct term is fake, replica, etc., since early copper isn't "current currency."), so genuine appearing that this one, and ultimately many others, were in top tier Third Party Grader (TPG) holders. This example, a supposed Sheldon-158, appeared to be a new variety, an "improbable die state," as another respected long-time EAC member noted, or, in fact, fake.

The "Y" in LIBERTY was too long for any known 1798 large cent, the reverse die break was partially tooled away as not seen for this variety before, and there were a series of blemishes including "dimples" on the bust as struck. The notice of this one opened the floodgate, as I found another example on eBay, then another member reported a third, and then a fourth appeared again on eBay, eventually adding up to eight documented examples currently, all with common "dimples," scratches and other circulation marks, which just can't be. These are all apparently in the dies, impressing these common identifiers in all examples struck. Individual pieces have other marks, damage and inflicted "weathering," possibly to try and hide the truth, but a diligent eye can still help flush them out.

An aid to finding more of these "suspicious coins" that has proven very helpful is cycling through the TPG cert series* around the suspect "coin." Running through the cert series for the first S[heldon]-158 showed other coins of interest and lead to the discovery of a group of fake 1803 half cents. Both the S-158 and 1803 half cent were documented with several other varieties in this "infamous" cert series/ submission (The actual cert photos were shared by the TPG and posted on the EAC website for member review.)

* *Editor's note: Some TPGs make information about and, if available, photographs of certified coins, available online. Related groups of coins are referred to as "cert series." See* https://www.ngccoin.com/certlookup *for Numismatic Guaranty Corporation's (NGC's) facility for viewing cert series.*

From there we were off and running. Currently we have posted twelve research articles on varieties of early large cents for member review on the updated EAC website - This is the first for a Colonial!

eBay appears to be ground zero for many of these, as we have traced many to eBay listings and particular sellers. When asked, the sellers pleaded no knowledge of the "coins" being fake and take the stand that they are certified by the TPGs. Two of the TPGs have become actively participative in trying to flush out these fakes along with EAC, making photos available both during research and (in one case) during the submission process. Certs have been updated as a result (past slabbed examples) or stopped at the initial certification process - common submitters have purportedly been identified. I personally have a list of "suspicious coins" by eBay seller, gaining as much info on each through the public domain as my limited skills have allowed. Continued diligence in "watching" what I have referred to as my "merry band of sellers" led to the discovery of the first documented Colonial entry into this group, my *"1787 4-C Massachusetts half cent."*

After seeing this "coin" listed for auction on one of the group's eBay pages, I immediately turned my "suspicious eye" on it, starting with the cert series. I became even more suspicious of this one, as the on-line cert verification stated "Grade: CONTACT NGC CUSTOMER SERVICE."

NGC Cert: 2653318-020

Date/Info: 1787 MASSACHUSETTS
Denomination: 1/2C
Grade: CONTACT NGC CUSTOMER SERVICE

NGC Price Guide: N/A
NGC Census: 0
NGC Coin Explorer: View

If the information displayed above is incorrect or does not match the coin you are verifying, or if you believe that you have a counterfeit or tampered NGC holder, please contact ConsumerAwareness@ngccoin.com. To learn more about counterfeit or tampered NGC holders, click here.

Photos courtesy of NGC.

Using my method of running through the cert series resulted in finding several other "suspicious coins" including a previously undocumented S-158 (seventh example). I pulled the pics from the listing and emailed them to several C4/EAC folks whom I know for their opinions, as this is my first look at a Massachusetts copper. The results drove more questions, as the pics weren't great and the "coin" wasn't in-hand, but everyone who reviewed it stated concerns about its possible authenticity. Additional thought considered a previously unknown die state / variety! Biting the bullet, I decided to "win" the auction (for an undisclosed embarrassing price) and turn this research article into another personal learning experience, thanks to the help of several "copper friends."

A note about the "cert series": In this case the main cert number for the submission is "2653318" followed by the item number. This series shows 20 "coins" submitted. My "Mass 1/2" is item number -020, the "S-158" is item number -015, and another "suspicious 1803 half cent" is 2653318-016. *Apparently the TPG had become suspicious of this submission and had adjusted the on-line certs accordingly.*

eBay Listing Item Number 262426323691. Photos courtesy of NGC.

Initial observations included the apparent lack of die break from the ankle to the bow, the increased length of the bow, and the "odd" look of the planchet. It "resembles" the Ryder 4-C variety in most characteristics.

After receiving my "winning" my next step was to contact NGC about the status of the cert and arrange what is termed an "Appearance Review," in which the coin was shepherded by EAC'er Paul Sandler through an evaluation that included removing it from the holder, reviewing the coin in-hand, weighing and checking metal composition and taking detailed photos well documenting this example. It was returned to me in a flip ("body bagged!") with the cert number label designation of "QUESTIONABLE AUTHENTICITY." Its weight is 4.89 g (75.46 grains), metallic content at 99.93% copper, Specific Gravity 8.87 (measured where I work,) no edge seam or possible base metal visible and a smooth edge - Looks very much like the other die struck early copper we have been discussing in EAC. Note, pics "lightened" to better show detail:

Photos by author.

As a side note, the NGC Appearance Review is part of their guarantee service, which I waived. I intended from the outset to keep this one for additional study if it did

indeed appear to not be authentic. I created a comparison pic of this example and a known genuine Ryder 4-C from the Heritage archives:

(Left) Subject example, author's photo.
(Right) Genuine Ryder 4-C, Photo courtesy of Heritage Auctions / HA.com.

Additional observations included:

1. "The edge looks too smooth. With that much wear, I'd expect to see dings and scratches. This one looks as if it was wire-brushed."
2. "The leaf below the talon is too large and too low."
3. "The denticles below the date are too far away (especially the second 7)."
4. "The crack between the bottom of the bow and the Indian's ankle is missing, but the part between the Indian's leg is present."

Thanks again to Will Nipper, Ray Williams and Mike Packard for observations and assistance throughout this evaluation!

The other obvious observation about this one is the "damage" on the reverse; the "flattening" of the branch end, the "ding" on the first "7" and the "notch" in the tail feather over the "8" are all distinguishing marks of this example. Continued review lead me down the same path/ process I have used researching "suspicious" early large cents, which I believe should apply to Colonials just as well.

If this is to follow the "suspicious" early large and half cents there should be others with the same markers, like the S-158s. **It already has a feature that appears too long (the bow), an improbable die state with half the break erased, and "damage" that should match other members of the family.**

So, the real research began, a little casual investigation diving into auction archives, eBay listings, etc. looking for other examples with similar attributes. And, like the S-158s, there appear to be others!

(Left) Author's example. Photo by author. (Right) 2015 eBay example.
eBay item photograph, use permissible under U. S. Fair Use doctrine.

This pic compares this example with an eBay example from 2015. Bow length and lack of the main die break appear similar, along with some minor marks.

(Left) Author's example. Photo by author. (Right) 2015 eBay example.
eBay item photograph, use permissible under U. S. Fair Use doctrine.

And the "damage" on the reverse appears to match! There are differences as well to indicate these are two different examples, particularly at the obverse bottom rim and bow tip.

Continued investigation provided two other eBay "incidences", one from 2013 and one from 2014:

eBay examples from 2013 (left) and 2014 (right).
eBay item photographs, usage permissible under U. S. Fair Use doctrine.

Note the longer bow, "reworked" die break, and the same reverse "damage", the ding on the first "7," flattening of the lower branch and notch in the tail feather over "8." The pics are difficult to review; I did try to "enhance" them making the color look different:

Common Damage on the Reverses of the four examples. Enlarged from photos above.

And finally this interesting example in an NNC slab:

eBay item photographs, usage permissible under U. S. Fair Use doctrine.

The pics leave a lot to be desired, especially the obverse, but the reverse appears to show much of the common damage of the other two.

And now for another twist...

I posted several of these images and started a brief discussion on the Colonial Yahoo website. One of the responses was from Tom Gesner who forwarded these pics (and allowed the use of them!) of an example he had reviewed in California in 2013.

Photos courtesy of Tom Gesner.

He ultimately didn't purchase it because he felt there was "something off about the piece," although there was no apparent edge seam and the weight came in "spot on for Mass half cents," 75.6 grains (4.89grams). He said the seller also stated he had broken it out of a slab certified as "genuine."

Tom's detailed notes as he contemplated purchasing it included:

Obverse:

1. Left side of first "O" appears to be crumbling.
2. "N" has extra serif on upper left side.
3. Hint of arc bow to ankle.
4. The triangular "chip" between the Indian's right forearm and waist is actually the start of some flaking / laminating
5. "Rust pits" / die chips?: three under right serif of first "M"; one above arrow feathers; two in second "O."

Reverse:

1. Lowest leaf in branch has die chip break obliterating it?
2. Tip of Beak doesn't have a die chip. Instead a small one exists under the tip of the beak.
3. Third "S" has a lump in the lowest opening.

It shares many of the same "identifiers" as mine; it is hard to be certain about this one as well as the others without having each "in hand," adding to the mystery of these "curious Colonials."

An interesting side note, the first "suspect" S-158 appeared on our radar screen mid-2015. We were then surprised to find one of the eBay examples in an auction archive from 2013 as well.

I have followed my previous early copper research papers- I can again report this investigation has been a collaborative effort with several EAC/ C4 members instrumental in the sharing of pics and info in the effort to "get the word out," and I would like to thank you! Again I've drawn no conclusions about what is real or what is "Memorex," but am convinced at least one of these is "counterfeit." Quoting Will, "If this were a legitimate variation of die states, I wouldn't think it would be unknown all this time then surface suddenly, in numbers. That [duplicated] dinged "7" pretty much does it for me."

I would ask that the membership be on the look-out for other duplicate examples, as the markers on the reverse should make this one pretty easy to spot, and REPORT them. **Remember, the truth is out there**!

11/05/16 Update: I had the pleasure of attending the Baltimore show and working the EAC table next to C4's and share the stories of several of these struck copper fakes. One of the common comments from non-members who reviewed the "coins" was that "They must be good, they're in holders!". We have a ways to go "to get the word out."

The author's coin, subsequently slabbed by ANACS. Photos by author.

Best,
Jack D. Young C4/ EAC 5050
Follow-up email: jyoung5050@aol.com

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WHAT TO DO WHEN YOU HIT THE WALL? HIT BACK!!!

(Part One)

(Jeff Rock)

Focusing on colonial coins allows collectors to define for themselves just how they want to collect. Unlike Federal U.S. series, such as commemoratives, state quarters, Lincoln cents or the dreaded Morgan Dollars, where you have books, albums, population reports and Registry Sets to tell you what "complete" means, colonials nearly always defy the ability to complete all but the smallest series. Indeed, the ONLY state coinage series to have EVER been completed by collectors is the Vermont coppers, a short 39 varieties (40 if you add in both the struck and cast Ryder 5's which really are completely different varieties and should have been given different numbers anyway) – and even this small series has only been completed twice, both of those times only recently. In every series there are stoppers – unique or near-unique varieties that are held by museums or split among a handful of advanced collections, insuring that everyone's set will remain incomplete for some time to come. In a popular – and expensive! – series like New Jersey coppers, not only has it become impossible to "complete" the set, but it's been getting harder and harder to attain an appreciable number of varieties. In the "good old days" a 110-variety collection was major, and a 100-variety set was the threshold for a notable collection; with escalating prices and disappearing coins, 90 became the new 100 (just as for this author where 50 is the new 30, since he can't quite believe such a milestone of age was reached, but that's a whole different article!).

The number of varieties a collector can hope to get -- even with an above average bank account! – is limited by the supply available at any one time. Those active for the last few decades have been blessed with the appearance of some major collections coming to market that released a small flood of coins which had been sequestered away for decades, some for over a century. The Garrett collection was the first of these blockbuster sales for colonials in the modern era, followed by Norweb, Eliasberg, Ford (and all the sales with Ford duplicates), Newman and now Partrick. Add to these major sales other strong ones such as Roper, Picker, Taylor, Oechner, Hessberg, Perkins, Haines, Keller, Craige, Kendall and a few dozen others that encompass pretty much every series of colonials and we truly have had an embarrassment of riches – a sheer mass of coins available at PUBLIC sale, the size of which had not been seen in well over a century, when the cabinets of Crosby, Bushnell, Parmalee and Mickley were sold! Indeed, in the past 35 years it is likely that somewhere close to 95% of ALL the colonial varieties known have appeared for sale (not counting those unique pieces that reside in museums which will never be sold, and are thus unavailable to any collector) – a situation that will probably not be happening again for quite some time!

But, while this amazing quantity of material has certainly appeared, it just as certainly hasn't been spread around as much as one would expect. The choicest and rarest coinage quickly disappeared into the new breed of major collections – the Garrett, Norweb,

Ford and Newman's of our time, perhaps – and may again be off the market for decades or generations to come. And since the prices of those extreme rarities and choicest coins seem to keep rising (who woulda' thought a Connecticut copper would break the $100,000 barrier? And we "ain't seen nothin' yet" when one considers the delicacies still waiting to be auctioned as part of the .Partrick collection), the cream will be out of the reach of most of the "average" collectors – even if the "average" collector can spend mid-five-figures a year on their collections!

Oddly enough, the super rarities – say anything from a legitimate R-7 to an R-8 variety – seem to occur in every larger series, mostly at around the same percentage compared to the overall size of the series. While a collector may get SOME of these super rarities with time, luck, a bit of skill and a healthy bank account, no one is getting them all – and ending up with just a couple can really lift a collection from the good category to the great. Before we go on, let's take a look at how the various series with good rarity rating data from which to generalize. We can leave out series like Maryland Silver or Higley Coppers since they are ALL pretty much rare, and few can afford to collect them by variety.

- Massachusetts Silver – roughly 90 varieties (depending on how you count recut dies, more if you include all those as well as the contemporary counterfeits found since the publication of the Noe references), of which about 20 are extremely rare – or about 22% of the total (a big chunk of these being the NE and Willow Tree issues, of course; adding in the die states and counterfeits still keeps the extremely rare pieces at roughly the 25% level).

- Vermont Coppers – 40 varieties, if you count the two mules and the struck and cast Ryder 5's as separate (and don't include the fantasy Ryder 40 issue), of which 8 can be considered extremely rare – or 20% of the total.

- Connecticut Coppers – a whopping 359 varieties (if you include the mules), of which an equally whopping 75 varieties are extremely rare, or 21% of the total – interestingly, this means that a collector hoping to get to the magic "300" count (of which under a dozen collectors have ever managed) will need to acquire over 15 of those extremely rare varieties! Taking out the 6 mules doesn't appreciably change the math, since one of those is an extreme rarity as well.

- New Jersey Coppers – 141 varieties (not counting the pattern issues, all of which are extremely rare to begin with), of which 37 are extremely rare, or 26%. Since the NJ coppers are the most widely collected state coinage, one could probably include Low R-7 varieties in the extremely rare count, which would raise the total closer to 30%.

- Atlee/Machin's Mills halfpence – a small 36 variety set (including the mules), of which 11 are extremely rare – making for a whopping 30% of the total!

- Fugio Coppers, 61 varieties (not counting the New Haven restrikes and the so-called Pattern issues), of which 13 are extremely rare, or 21% of the total.

Even with less popular, and smaller series, the rarity count stays in that 20-30% range – the Plantation token series has 10 or 11 varieties (one is unknown but may exist), and 2 or 3 are extremely rare, or 27%. Nova Constelaltios have 12 varieties (including a contemporary counterfeit and a mule with a Confederatio die), of which 3 are extremely rare, or 25%. The data isn't in for many of the other series that don't have reference books written, but it wouldn't be surprising to find most of them in this same general range of number of varieties that are basically unobtainable.

Now don't get me wrong. Having rarities in a series is not a bad thing – it gives collectors something to strive for and makes the pursuit of a collection a long-term goal (Really, how rare is a set of Morgan Dollars when you can write a single check and buy a complete set – from multiple different companies?). But when a collector gets all the common, scarce, rare and very rare pieces (up to the Low Rarity-7 level), then what? This is known as "hitting the wall," a term that is flexible enough to encompass every collector's budget – some of us just hit the wall sooner than others.

So what is the average collector to do? Few can afford to add a low 6-figure Connecticut, mid 6-figure New Jersey or NE shilling and definitely NOT a 7-figure 1792 pattern to their collections! When is a collector "finished"? Probably when he or she hits the wall and can no longer add to their collection – the point where one moves from being a "collector" to a "curator" of a personal museum, perhaps one untouched for years. Instead the TRUE collector finds a way to keep collecting – and colonials give ample ways to extend your collecting years, without completely breaking the bank!

PART ONE: ALL IN THE FAMILY

Here are some ways that you can avoid hitting that wall – simply by moving that wall further away, perhaps so far you can't even see it on the horizon!

PAPA'S GOT A BRAND NEW BAG: One way is to collect a completely different series of colonials that doesn't have the same pricing structure for rarities that the Massachusetts silver and state coppers do. The obvious areas, all of which have books written on them, are the Rosa Americana and Hibernia coppers (both with excellent newer works by Syd Martin), Virginia coppers (with an excellent monograph by Eric Newman and an updated reference in the works), and the billon coinage for the French Colonies in North America (with a useful but dated reference work by the late Bob Vlack which will hopefully be improved upon by the next generation of collectors). The mysterious St. Patrick coinage will soon have its first reference work published, which will open up the

series to intelligent collecting by variety, and there will be at least a hundred or so varieties for the collector to pursue. Syd Martin's new book on French Colonies coinage includes the copper 9 Deniers issues of 1721-2, adding close to 100 new varieties for the collector to chase (with, we suspect, a good 20% of the die varieties proving to be extreme rarities just like the various series tabulated above). These under-collected and under-appreciated series all have rarer varieties, but often for very little premium over common varieties (though rare types are often priced higher since there is a whole contingent of type collectors chasing these coins as well – for instance, a "nimbus" variety of St. Patrick "farthing," a VTILE DVLCI Rosa Americana halfpenny, a "Star After Date" Hibernia or a Virginia penny will always be priced MUCH higher than a common type coin, in the same way a Date Under Plow Beam New Jersey will always bring thousands of times more than a Maris 46-e in the same grade). For the collector with the acquisition urge, expanding the number of series one collects will also expand ones active lifespan of collecting.

The French Colonies Nine Deniers of 1721-2 were specifically struck to circulate in North America and now has the benefit of a new reference work by former C4 Newsletter Editor Syd Martin. Because the series hasn't been collected by die variety for long the opportunity for acquiring rarities – or even new varieties – at type coin prices still exist!

ONE FROM COLUMN A, TWO FROM COLUMN B: Another way to expand is to keep your main collecting focus and pursue a type set of other colonials. Some of these can get expensive – a New England shilling, Higley copper or George Clinton cent will always be out of reach for many of us. But, if you collect only one series right now, you can open up a copy of the Redbook to the colonial section and find **a lot** of other coins to collect that will fit your budget. If you are looking at coins that cost under $2,500 apiece, the current edition of the Redbook lists an amazing **250 different major types** that you can acquire for that amount or less – for some types you can get high grade examples at a fraction of that figure, for others you may have to settle for a lower grade coin to get it in under budget – and if you can occasionally splurge on a more expensive piece, that number goes up another 40-50 pieces for your type set! If a $2,500 coin is out of your budget, then good news, there are 220 or so types that clock in at $1,000 or less (for the lowest grade listed) – and if that is still too high, then there are 200 that come in at $500 or less per coin! So if you are stuck at 99 varieties of New Jersey coppers, you can more than triple the size of your collection by going after these major types (and, of course, the Redbook doesn't

really touch on all the distinct types in every series, so your number could be significantly higher if you want to go into more depth than that book covers). And each of these type coins will cost less than 5% what your 100th variety of New Jersey copper will probably run!

IT'S ALL RELATIVE: You can expand your collection by pursuing series that are related to colonial coins – and there are enough of these to fill a lifetime or two of collecting! You can stay in colonial America and collect paper money or fiscal documents that are colonial relevant (and some of these are very inexpensive).

While not colonial paper money this paper wrapper IS related – it once wrapped a bundle of currency from the state of Connecticut that was redeemed (and canceled). These wrappers give the name of the (lucky) person who got paid as well as the amount they submitted. Such ephemera can only help bring the era alive to a collector – and at a price well under what the actual notes often bring!

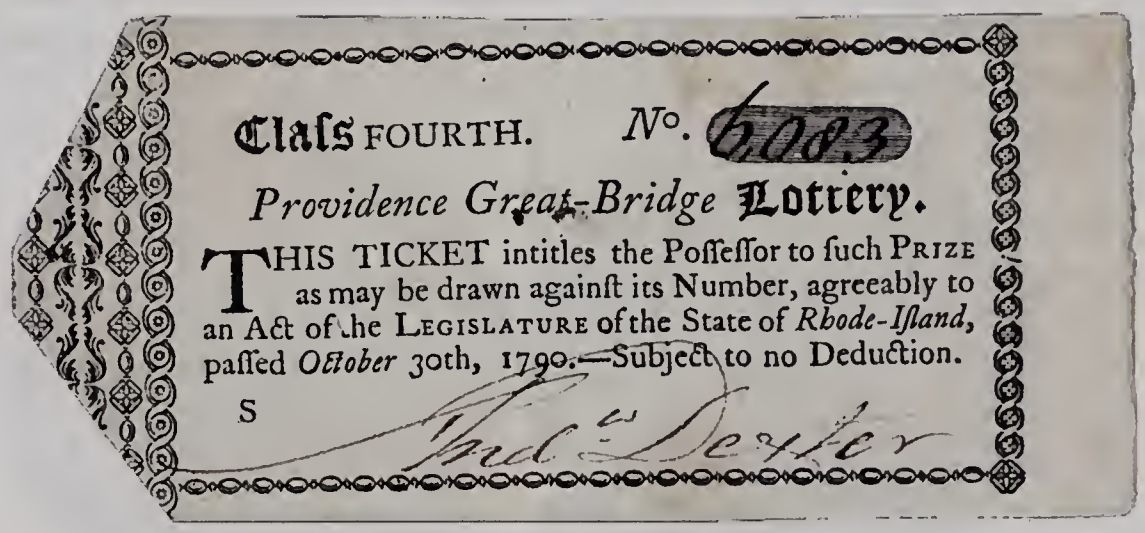
A Table of COINS, as they now pass in the following Places.

	England.			Philadelphia			N. York.		
	l.	s.	d.	l.	s.	d.	l.	s.	d.
Engliſh Sixpence,	0	0	6	0	0	9	0	0	8
Engliſh Crown,	0	5	0	0	7	6	0	8	0
French Crown,	0	5	0	0	7	6	0	8	0
Guinea,	1	1	0	1	14	0	1	16	0
Spaniſh Piſtole,	0	16	6	1	7	0	1	9	0
French Piſtole,	0	16	0	1	6	6	1	8	0
Moydore,	1	7	0	2	3	6	2	6	0
Johannes,	3	12	0	5	15	0	6	6	0
Half Johannes,	1	16	0	2	17	6	3	3	0
Doubloon,	3	6	0	5	8	0	5	16	0
Spaniſh Dollar,				0	7	6	0	8	0
Piſtereen,				0	1	4	0	1	6

N.B. All kinds of Spaniſh Silver are ſold in London, by the Ounce, and often varies, but ſeldom or e[ver] exceeds 5s. 5d.

An almanac page from the 1750's showing just a very small sample of the silver and gold coins that were in circulation on colonial North America – and their relative values in England and two different colonies. A look at hoard and archaeological finds would increase this list tenfold, and all of them would be collectible. Only the gold issues would present a significant investment.

Then (as now) people dreamed of getting rich fast, a dream that was fuelled by lotteries all over the colonies and fledgling country. Many of the lottery tickets from this era managed to survive -- the losing tickets, of course. But not only are those losing tickets eminently collectible and valuable today, some of them are signed by very important people of the era, their signatures attesting to the supposed validity of the lottery itself. The most coveted of these early lottery tickets is one from 1768 that was to fund building a road through the Allegheny mountains in Virginia to create a resort hot springs area; the tickets for that lottery (which never actually got off the ground) was signed by none other than George Washington!


Class FOURTH. No. 6,083

Providence Great-Bridge Lottery.

THIS TICKET intitles the Poſſeſſor to ſuch PRIZE as may be drawn againſt its Number, agreeably to an Act of the LEGISLATURE of the State of *Rhode-Iſland*, paſſed *October* 30th, 1790.—Subject to no Deduction.

S

1790 Providence, Rhode Island lottery ticket to finance bridge construction.
From the editor's collection.

But, if paper doesn't float your boat, and you want to stick with round and brown – there are many other areas that are relative too. Read on!

YOU BETT(S) YOUR LIFE: How about the area of colonial relevant ("Betts") medals – which can add hundreds or even thousands of new additions, depending on your area and how deep you want to go; a great new book on Admiral Vernon medals was just published and really makes that series collectible – and a great book on the medals for or against John Law does the same for a series that has intimidated some because they are mostly in French. These medals are all relevant to colonial North America – though very few were actually struck here – and they are often quite beautiful as well. They have FAR more history than any coin has since they were literally created to be beautiful and important, not for the masses to spend on bread and ale. Collecting these series will not only add to your collection, but will add to your knowledge as well – there is no way you can buy a medal celebrating some glorious victory or even that you never heard of before and NOT immediately start searching for what exactly it was!

A 1702-dated medal commemorating the British capture of one of the Spanish Treasure fleets at Vigo Bay – this defeat of Spain shifted world power and made England the ruler of the seas – and allowed for the expansion and growth of its American Colonies. This is listed in C. Wyllys Betts' work on historical medals relating to North America

A medal commemorating Admiral Vernon's victories (this one in Cartagena) – struck in 1741 and in nice condition will set you back perhaps a few hundred dollars in today's market. The previously unintelligible mess of the Vernon series has been made clear by an amazing new book on the series. Most varieties are quite rare, at least an R-6 – yet they are affordable AND historic.

IT'S A SMALL WORLD, AFTER ALL: You can collect genuine examples of all the different world coinages that we know circulated in colonial America – the ones found in archaeological context AND mentioned in various contemporary records, again a few hundred new specimens can easily be added, with only the gold issues carrying four-figure prices. America was far from just British colonies – and there was literally an entire world of coinage circulating in colonial North America. Adding pieces that are known to have been here in some quantity will give you a better idea of what the financial life was like in those days. The collecting of coins of the world that circulated in early North America has been greatly helped by their inclusion in the newest (2017) edition of The Redbook – only three pages, but a good overview of some Spanish, Dutch, French and British issues that might have been found here. Even better, of the 25 types listed in the Redbook, 19 of them are priced at under $100 (in VG grades – some priced as low as $10!), and the highest priced one is only $200.

WHEN YOU HAVE A HAMMER EVERY PROBLEM LOOKS LIKE A NAIL: While the issues to the south of our border circulated here, collectors sometimes forget the north – despite the fact that Canada was part of the same group of colonies, both British and French, which formed North America. There were a host of coins specific to the French Colonies (some covered earlier in this paper), as well as coins that circulated there in great quantity such as the infamous "Black Dogges" and the Sous Marques. One could easily add hundreds or varieties with minimal expense – and if you want to get into die varieties of some of these things (a mostly unexplored territory), you would have many thousands of coins to add to your collection. There are many real coins – and many counterfeits, some just as laughably crude as the British halfpence counterfeits. The colonial period in America ended roughly about the time the Philadelphia Mint was set up (though we still add in some tokens and medals dated to 1800 or so – and some that were dated earlier were struck much later, such as the backdated Washington and North American token!), but in Canada it lasted much longer, and many colonial collectors also pursue what can only be called the "colonials of Canada" – the crude Blacksmith token series. While most were not struck until the 1830's or 1840's they have the same unsophisticated look that colonial American coins have. While a smallish series there are many key rarities in it, and a great book has yet to be written on them….maybe not a bad time to be collecting such things!

If you like crude state coinages, how could you not be charmed by the even more crude Canadian Blacksmith tokens? Though struck several decades later than the end of the colonial coinage era many colonial collectors include these issues with their interests.

MAKER'S MARK, MORE THAN JUST A TASTY BOURBON: You can collect things that were also made by people who made colonials. Both Ephraim Brasher and John Bailey counterstamped other coins which can be collected (for a lot less money than a Brasher doubloon will cost) – but both also produced silver and gold objects (and Brasher made jewelry as well) in their professional capacity, and those items come on the market now and then. Standish Barry and John Chalmers were also silversmiths, and Barry was a watch-maker – their wares are extremely rare but can sometimes be found. Abel Buell, the "American Genius" who revolutionized the coinage process with complex hubs and automatic ejection fingers for the Connecticut copper series (one reason there are so darned many of them!) created moveable type in America, was a map maker who made the most important and most valuable map of the United States (one sold for over $2 million a half decade ago), a privateer, a silversmith and a fine weaponry maker – all in addition to

making several hundred dies for the Connecticut and Fugio coppers series – and who still managed to die in the poorhouse, but who left a lot of things a collector can pursue. Many of the people involved in making colonial coins were people of note – which means that their signatures still exist. Some on paper money and lottery tickets of the era, some on checks or letters – again, an incredible way to flesh out a collection.

A silver dinner spoon made by Joseph Richardson, Jr. with his mark on the back, and made somewhere between 1777 and 1805. Richardson was responsible for the earliest Washington Indian Peace Medals (and later was the Assayer of the first Philadelphia Mint). Since an oval Washington peace medal might bring 7 figures these days, a spoon made by the same person is a much less expensive alternative!

KEEP CALM AND CARRY ON: Broaden your geography a little bit and consider the Mother Country. We were (mostly) British colonies, and the British numismatic field has a lot to offer to the colonial specialist. The most obvious is the counterfeit copper coinage of the 18th century – halfpence and farthings, mainly George II and George III, of both British and Irish types. If you think these are esoteric and not relevant to what is in your collection, think again! The Connecticut and bust style Vermont coppers were modelled directly on the designs of the British halfpenny, and the Atlee/Machin's Mills issues copied them exactly (save for some very non-regal dates which were the "smoking gun" that led to the discovery of this series as something made locally, not imported from England with masses of other counterfeit coppers). The counterfeit British halfpenny was, BY FAR, the most common coin in circulation in North America – not just in the colonial period, but during and well past the state coinage era and into the first decade or two that the Philadelphia Mint was turning out coins. Ignoring them is ignoring a major part of our countries numismatic history. Yes, it's a complicated and baffling field – there may well be 10,000 (!) individual die varieties of the various counterfeit coinages (and you thought 350 or so Connecticut copper varieties were confusing) – but you can collect examples by date, or by the various "families" that have been published, or in any way that appeals to you – but I warn you, it is a series that is just as addictive as any of the state coinages, though available at a fraction of the cost.

How can someone NOT fall in love with the crude charm of counterfeit British and Irish coppers? The above two coins are a pair of halfpennies, the top coin a British halfpence of a date that does not exist in the regal series, a backwards 7 in the date, the King's name misspelled with an upside down V used as an A – and dated a year after George II died. The lower coin is an exceptionally crude Irish counterfeit, with the designs and legends all engraved by hand, rivaling any crude colonial for sheer lack of engraving skill!

EVADE THAT CONDER! If you are collecting these counterfeits then there are two other related series you also need to look at – evasion coppers and the "Conder Tokens" (more properly, 18th Century Provincial Tokens). Why? Because many of these were made at the same place, at the same time and by the exact same people who made the counterfeit halfpence and farthings – sometimes sharing dies across all three of these series in the process. Add in a few more lifetimes of collecting here too – around 1,000 evasion copper varieties and about 7,500 "Conders" to add to your set if you pursue them all…but like any series, you can pick and choose parts of the whole to collect – for example, maybe just the evasions with the truly evasive and garbled legends and only Conder tokens from Ireland or Wales, or of architectural types or farthing denominations or only ones with political messages – the only limit here is your imagination. People like to say that evasion coppers didn't circulate here (some did, as they have been found in archaeological context as well as by metal detectors, just not in huge numbers). The answer to that is pretty simple – you already are including evasions in your collection. Both the Washington North Wales halfpenny and the various Auctori Plebis "mules" are nothing more than evasion coppers – and many of those sell well into the four and even five figures (for the double-star Washington North Wales type). Why not include the ones that sell in the two figures as

well? You will have a lot of fun, learn some history and really marvel at what those coiners were able to get away with!

The top piece is a "Conder token" struck for Thomas Spence – the radical thinker who went to prison for his outspoken beliefs, many of which were shared by Thomas Paine and helped spark the American Revolution – you can see his fondness for King George III on the reverse of this token where his head is joined with that of an ass, a caricature that would have been bordering on treason. The lower piece is an evasion copper – something that looks like a British (or Irish) halfpenny, but with legends that are distinctly different, which "evaded" the law against counterfeiting at the time.

THE WORLD IS MY OYSTER – WITH A FAKE PEARL INSIDE: And if you are collecting the counterfeit British coinages, then what excuse do you have to not include counterfeit coinages from the other countries that had North American colonies? The French and the Dutch coinages both have a number of counterfeits, sometimes amazingly crude, which would have circulated here, the French ones for over 150 years. Spanish silver and gold were the most common precious metal coinage found in colonial America and in the early United States – and yes, there are thousands of counterfeits of the Spanish coinage of this era (dated well past the time they were demonetized in the United States in 1857), some of which were likely made right here in the United States. From the tiniest silver Half Reale to the impressive gold 8 Escudo "doubloon," all denominations are represented with counterfeits – though the largest group, by far, is the silver 8 Reales series, the coin that became the basis for the U.S. dollar and thus of our entire monetary system. Luckily for the collector, a well-illustrated reference book has just been published for this particular coinage (and a reference work on the popular 2 Reales series has been published and updated).

The top coin is a counterfeit 1761-D French ecu struck in brass instead of silver, with a date and mintmark that doesn't exist in the regal coinage. The bottom is a 1777 dated counterfeit Spanish 2 Reales, struck in copper instead of silver, and with very large, crude letters. Both of these types of counterfeits could easily have circulated in North America – and really, either of them could have been made here as well.

But let's say you just don't like change. None of that silly Internet stuff the kids are talking about these days – heck, a car with a hand crank was good enough for your grandpa and it's good enough for you! You found a coinage series that captivates you, and you don't want to take on any other – can you still manage to avoid hitting that wall? Of course you can! You might not be able to add thousands of new pieces to your collection, but you can certainly push that wall a little further down the road, and we will let you know how to do so in the next installment of this three-part series!

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Don't forget to read the **DUES NOTICE** enclosed with this issue!!!

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THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS IN FLIGHT!

(Ray Williams)

When you think of Yorktown, what comes to mind? A great victory in our American Revolution? Washington and Cornwallis? A famous city in Virginia that a WWII aircraft carrier was named after? All these things came to mind when I first heard of a Yorktown bill. I just thought it was another piece of colonial paper from Virginia.

I soon after discovered that the Continental Currency legislated in Yorktown had nothing to do with Virginia, but with York Pennsylvania! This inspired me to look further into the movements of the Continental Congress and how this was shown on Continental Currency.

Twelve of the thirteen colonies met briefly at Carpenter's Hall in Philadelphia during September and October of 1774, as the First Continental Congress. There were six meetings of the Second Continental Congress spanning the period from May, 1775 to March, 1781. During the six sessions, eleven emissions of Continental Currency were authorized.

[Editor's note: Technically, 37 Continental Currency emissions were authorized, each on a different date. To make the printer's job easier, however, only eleven dates were actually used on currency. The earliest, May 10, 1775, was the day on which Congress convened, with the first resolution authorizing currency coming in July. Thereafter, the actual date of the overall authorizing resolution, under which multiple emissions could be authorized, was used on the currency. Thus, these eleven dates are, herein, synonymous with "emissions."]

The Continental Congress met in Philadelphia from May 10, 1775 to December 12, 1776. Six emissions of currency were legislated during this period, with the final being authorized on November 2, 1776.

The United Colonies
EIGHT DOLLARS
No.
EIGHT DOLLARS.
THIS Bill entitles the Bearer to receive EIGHT Spaniſh milled DOLLARS, or the Value thereof in Gold or Silver, according to a Reſolution of CONGRESS, paſſed at Philadelphia, Nov. 2, 1776.
MAJORA MINORIBUS CONSONA
EIGHT DOLLARS.
CONTINENTAL CURRENCY

"...passed at *Philadelphia*, Nov. 2, 1776." Photo by author.

In the Fall of 1776, The British Army was crossing New Jersey and eventually occupied Trenton. The Continental Congress knew of the advancing British, and didn't know if the army would stop at Trenton, or continue to Philadelphia. With this in mind, Congress relocated to Baltimore, MD, where it resided from December 20, 1776 through February 27, 1777. If the British had any intention of crossing the Delaware River before the spring, those thoughts were dispelled after Washington's awesome victory at the Battle of Trenton on the morning of December 26, 1776. Congress felt assured that Philadelphia would be safe and decided to move back in February, 1777. On February 26, 1777, the day before closing the session at Baltimore and returning to Philadelphia, Congress authorized the printing of the seventh emission of currency.

THREE DOLLARS.
No. 74,100
THIS Bill entitles the BEARER to receive Three SPANISH milled DOLLARS, or the Value thereof in Gold or Silver, according to a Resolution of CONGRESS, passed at Baltimore, Feb. 26, 1777.
IMPAVIDE IN DUBIO FIDE
THREE DOLLARS.

"...*passed at* Baltimore, Feb. 26, 1777." Photo by author.

The Congress was now comfortably back in Philadelphia and met here from March 4 thru September 18, 1777. They only stayed comfortable for six months! With mounting war expenses, the Congress again legislated for another issue (the eighth) of paper money on May 20, 1777.

No.
SEVEN DOLLARS.
THIS Bill entitles the Bearer to receive SEVEN SPANISH milled DOLLARS, or the Value thereof in Gold or Silver, according to a Resolution of CONGRESS, passed at Philadelphia, May 20, 1777.
SERENA PAVIT.
SEVEN DOLLARS.

"...*passed at* Philadelphia, May 20, 1777."

With the British Army again threatening Philadelphia, and then successfully occupying it, the Congress again needed to flee. It headed West this time and met in Lancaster, PA for just one day on September 27, 1777. Evidently, the Congress felt as though it would be safer on the other side of the Susquehanna River. Having this natural impediment to any future advancement of the British was good thinking on their part. So across the river they went, and held sessions in the court house in York, PA. York was known as Yorktown at the time. Here they met from September 30, 1777 until June 27, 1778. On April 11, 1778, the 9th emission of currency was authorized.

THE UNITED STATES
No.
SEVEN DOLLARS.
THIS Bill entitles the Bearer to receive SEVEN SPANISH milled DOLLARS, or the Value thereof in Gold or Silver, according to a Resolution passed by CONGRESS, at YORK-TOWN, 11th APRIL, 1778.
SERENABIT.
SEVEN DOLLARS.
CONTINENTAL CURRENCY

"...*at* York-Town, 11*th* April, 1778."

After the British occupation ended, it seemed safe enough to again return to Philadelphia in June 1778 Congress met in Philadelphia from July 2, 1778 until June 21, 1783. During this period, they authorized two last emissions of currency. From 1775 thru 1778, the Congress issued at least two emissions of currency in each and every year.

No. 157704 Fifty Dollars.
This Bill entitles the Bearer to receive Fifty Spanish milled Dollars, or the Value thereof in Gold or Silver, according to a Resolution passed by CONGRESS at Philadelphia, September 26th, 1778.
50 DOLLARS.
PERENNIS.

"...*at* Philadelphia, *September* 26*th*, 1778."

January 14, 1779 saw the eleventh and final issue of Continental Currency. The question arises...with four more years before the Treaty of Paris, why was no further generally circulating paper money issued? Had enough already been issued? Did Congress realize that the money was becoming worthless? Did finances arrive from foreign countries? Or...

No. 11782 Thirty Dollars.
THE Bearer is entitled to receive Thirty Spanish milled DOLLARS, or an equal Sum in Gold or Silver, according to a Resolution of CONGRESS of the 14th January 1779.
30 Dollars.

Although not written on the bill, the Jan. 1779 legislation was passed in Philadelphia.

Below is a chart showing the legislation dates for Continental Currency and the denominations issued. You'll notice that in the final two legislations, many more high-denomination bills were issued. With the devaluation of Continental Currency over the years, Congress found them necessary.

	1775		1776				1777		1778		1779
	May 10	Nov 29	Feb 17	May 9	Jul 22	Nov 2	Feb 26	May 20	Apr 11	Sep 26	Jan 14
$ 1/6			✓								
$ 1/3			✓								
$ 1/2			✓								
$ 2/3			✓								
$1	✓	✓	✓	✓							✓
$2	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓
$3	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓
$4	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
$5	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
$6	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
$7	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
$8	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
$20	✓								✓	✓	✓
$30	✓				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
$35											✓
$40									✓	✓	✓
$45											✓
$50										✓	✓
$55											✓
$60										✓	✓
$65											✓
$70											✓
$80											✓
	Philadelphia		Philadelphia				Baltimore	Philadelphia	Yorktown	Philadelphia	

The Congress did not stop its travels. For a number of reasons, the Congress met in Princeton. Then after the conclusion of the Revolution, it met in Annapolis, Trenton, New York, Philadelphia and ended up in Washington, DC in November of 1800, where it resides today. Tracking the movements of the Continental Congress as seen on Continental Currency was just one of many ways I have fun in our hobby. There is so much more to learn about our early paper money, and I look forward to the fun of doing so.

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A 1778 political cartoon depicting America, cutting off the horns of the cow of British commerce, while a Dutchman milks it and Spain and France watch with bowls of milk. A troubled Englishman watches while the British lion sleeps and a dog urinates on its back. In the background, the Howes, William and Richard, sit drunk in Philadelphia and Admiral Richard Howe's flagship, the *Eagle*, has run aground. Benjamin Franklin noted, "[William] Howe didn't capture Philadelphia, Philadelphia captured Howe." The *Eagle* is the ship depicted on Rhode Island ship tokens/medals and was the first to be attacked by a submarine - David Bushnell's *Turtle*. It is also said to have harbored an operation that counterfeited Continental Currency. Source: Library of Congress, Prints and Photographs Division, LC-USZ62-15755.

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A JESUS COUNTERMARK

(Marcus Mayhugh)

For many years I have collected colonial coins, as well as countermarked coins. It was, therefore, only natural that I would eventually be drawn to the old countermarked French *douzains* that circulated in the parts of America controlled by France. These pieces of billon were revalued with a *fleur-de-lys* countermark, in a beaded circle, that increased their value from 12 to 15 *deniers*. I believe these are the coins referred to in Crosby, in the Connecticut section as "Black Doggs" (Crosby, Sylvester S., The Early Coins of America, Boston, 1875, p. 203). I began collecting these pieces rather haphazardly at first, sight unseen from dealers, off eBay, etc., wherever I could get them.

One day, I noticed that one of the old *douzains* I was considering did not bear the familiar *fleur-de-lys*, but rather a different countermark altogether. It bore the initials IHS with a scroll above and three dots underneath on an old *douzain* of Henri II. On the other hand, it could have just as easily been, SHI with the scroll underneath. I found this very interesting and began searching my references for this countermark, but to no avail. Having exhausted my references I resorted to Google and, surprisingly, came up with nothing. The coin was then purchased, placed in what I have labeled "the black dogg folder and then forgotten.

IHS Countermark on a French *douzain* of Henri II. Photo by author.

Sometime later, I visited the Mel Fisher Museum in Key West, Florida, one of my bucket list destinations, and one of the places I had wanted to visit for a long time. I was thoroughly enjoying myself, drooling over the treasures of the *Atocha*, when I looked down and saw a round stone engraved with IHS. I immediately thought of the old *douzain* in my collection. Upon further examination of the *Atocha* exhibit I realized the IHS was a popular religious symbol that is known as a Christogram or, in some cases, a backronym.

This called for a re-Google! Only this time I included the word "Jesus" and, *VOILA*! - bunches of hits. Not everyone agrees exactly on what the IHS Christogram represents. Without delving into a lot of Greek and Latin, the most acceptable translation is that it stands for the first three letters of Jesus' name, *iota-eta-sigma*. (Wilson, Dr. Ralph F., "Early Christian Symbols of the Ancient Church," www.jesuswalk.com/christian-

symbols/.) However, a lot of other interpretations exist, some rather far-fetched. Some say that the legend stands for *Iesus Hominum Salvator* ("Jesus Savior of Men"), others, that it represents Constantine's vision that came to him as a cross with the words *In Hoc Signo Vinces* ("In this sign you shall conquer"), narrowed down to IHS. Still, there are those who say that the abbreviation signifies, "I Have Suffered" or "In His Service". The most humorous is it stands for "Jesus H. Christ" ("Chistogram," *Wikipedia*, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Christogram.).

Regardless of the exact meaning of the initials, I now know that the symbol represents Christ. Sometimes a certain sense of satisfaction can be derived from figuring out a countermark, even if you stumbled onto the answer by chance.

IHS stone annulet in the Mel Fisher Museum, Key West, Florida. Photo by author.

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AN INTERVIEW WITH COLONIAL MONEY SPECIALIST RAY WILLIAMS

(Jeff Burke)

September 26, 2016: Colonial coin and paper money expert Ray Williams kindly took the time (while in the middle of editing his quarterly column for *The Numismatist*) to field my questions about how he developed an abiding passion for colonial numismatics and the numerous ways in which he has participated in service to our beloved hobby. I conducted a Q & A phone interview with Ray on September 23, 2016. The following information is a synopsis of our conversation. I crafted this piece as a modest thanks to Ray for inviting me to attend a New Jersey Numismatic Society meeting in September, 2013. At present, I am beginning my fourth year of membership in the NJNS.

Ray Williams was born in New York City and lived in Howard Beach, Queens until the age of four. His formative years were spent in Cedar Grove, New Jersey before living in South Carolina and Georgia, compliments of Uncle Sam and the U. S. Army, as an adult. Ray is an electronic technician who has lived in Trenton for the past 30 years.

In the 1980s, Diane, Ray's wife, worked in the trust department of a bank in Princeton. Bank officials would call Ray if they had any potentially valuable estate coins. Ray enjoyed doing this activity on a pro bono basis just for fun! In 1988, Ray was asked to assess the value of a coin collection owned by a gentleman who had recently passed away. It was a complete date collection from 1793 to 1988 which included colonial type coins, large cents, flying eagle, Indian head cent and Lincoln cents. This estate collection was sold at auction by Bowers and Merena in September 1988. Ray wanted to own a piece from this collection so he ended up purchasing his first colonial (Maris 34-J) at a Mann & Smedley auction in September 1988 to remember the set.

Ray has been active in local, state and national numismatic organizations and has spoken at coin clubs across New Jersey. He likes to ignite enthusiasm for colonials by giving talks at numismatic and non-numismatic groups. The latter includes historical societies, libraries, Rotary Clubs and other nonprofit organizations. Ray prefers to capture the allure or romance of coins by telling stories about them. For example, imagine a colonial gentleman dressed in a tricorne hat and shoe buckles paying at an inn with a New Jersey copper! Williams recalled assembling (with several other people) a multi-million dollar exhibit on a Red Book style colonial type set that was displayed in several cases at the 2000 ANA Convention in Boston. Williams also produced 20 copies of a book based on the pictures and events of this seminal exhibit.

To help spark interest in collecting colonials, Williams recommends writing articles about the coins you own, sharing them with friends and relatives, and giving talks on coins in schools, girl and boy scout troops, libraries, and other venues. ANA Summer Seminar Director Susan McMillan invited Ray to give a 45-minute evening talk (open to everyone) at the 2015 ANA Summer Seminar in Colorado Springs. Williams was delighted to do so

and gave a presentation titled "An Introduction to Collecting Colonial Paper Money." He displayed paper money from each of the 13 original colonies as well as Continental Currency issues. Williams had a plethora of questions during the Q & A session afterwards! The next day Ray had a meal with several people who attended his talk and decided to start their own colonial paper money collections.

Approximately 15 years ago, David Alexander invited Ray to give a general presentation on colonial coins at the New York Numismatic Club (NYNC) in Manhattan. Luckily, he wore a tie that night although he didn't bring a jacket! Williams remembers the meeting being held at the top of a skyscraper. He was impressed that one of the NYNC members had a tray of 20 colonial coins that had been passed down through his family and had never seen a dealer's case. Ray ended up being sponsored by Robert Hoge and Roger Siboni to join the NYNC. Williams gave another talk on colonials at the NYNC. After Ray attended his third meeting, he was voted in as an official member of the NYNC. Williams felt honored and humbled to become a member of this esteemed numismatic organization. During his first meeting as a new member, Eric Goldstein gave a talk on the money of New Amsterdam. After dinner, a show-and-tell was held in which each club member placed coins she/he brought in a tray in front of him/her and talked about them. A competition was held and people who did not bring any pieces to judge went around a U-shaped table to examine a tray of numismatic items and render a decision. Ray had 30 Lion Dollars in his tray which clinched the win. Later, Williams was awarded the prize of an engraved copper medal for this success.

I first met Ray at the conclusion of the 2012 ANA Summer Seminar when we took the shuttle bus ride together to the Colorado Springs Airport. I appreciate Ray's infectious enthusiasm for all things Colonial. He is a down-to-earth person who is always patient with new coin collectors and seems to have unlimited energy in terms of speaking to groups of all sizes about the reasons why people should take an interest in collecting Colonial era specimens. Ray is set to be the Convention Chairman for the 50th Annual EAC Convention in Philadelphia in April 2017. I imagine that he will tackle this formidable job with the same fervor that he brings to colonial numismatics on a daily basis.

(For further reading, see http://www.collectorsweekly.com/articles/an-interview-with-colonial-coin-collector-ray-williams/).

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MAKING GROWN WOMEN CRY
A TALE OF A FUGIO COPPER BOOK

(Jeff Rock)

Making a woman cry is decidedly bad form. Making three of them tear up at the same time should thus be three times as bad. Yet I had the decided pleasure to do so in August, 2016, and never have I felt so happy. But wait, before you brand me a heartless monster, let me explain!

The three were Margaret Retz, the wife of the late Rob Retz who is well-remembered by many readers of this journal, despite it being a dozen years since he passed away, along with their two daughters Angela and Nicole, now both grown and married.

I had written in the past about Rob's brave fight against a rare cancer, as well as the sale of his Fugio copper collection in 2012, the first year that Stack's Bowers handled the C4 Auction. Discussed there was the fact that when Rob first learned of his diagnosis he was trying to finish up a reference work on Fugio coppers that he had been working on for several years. But as Rob's strength faded, the Fugio book was put on hold. Little was done on the book for half a decade, during which time the new edition of Eric Newman's book on the series was published.

John Kraljevich did much of the descriptions of die varieties for that book, and while he had access to Rob's notes, he specifically chose not to use them – partially because the work was Rob's, partially because he still hoped that Rob's book would see print and because both the Newman and Retz works would be used in tandem by specialists. While Rob's book did have updated rarity information, strike order data and some notes on attribution the core of it was very much the Condition Census data that he compiled – which is the one major thing absent from the Newman book.

Rob's book languished for a few years, was briefly discussed as a C4 publication but then was ruled out because the photographer who had taken most of the pictures in it had used those same photos for the Newman book and clearly didn't want them used in another book regardless of whether it was a competing book or one that would add to the Newman reference. There the project sat for even more years.

But a handful of people were determined to see the book come to light – the question was just how? The text was 15 years old in some cases, and certainly no longer cutting-edge research. Many auctions had coins that Rob had never seen, some known collections were sold (including Rob's own), many coins had been graded differently by third party services (Rob was a notoriously conservative old-school grader), and to make things even more difficult, a new variety had been discovered that Rob didn't know about! We debated bringing the work up to date – but at what point would it cease to be a work by Rob Retz and instead that of a new writer or even a committee? Perhaps the debate was

mostly hypothetical at this point since there was no real path forward towards publishing the book, as neither C4 or the ANS was interested in publishing a text without photos!

Then in early 2016 things began to change, and an unexpected series of events happened in short order. Past C4N editor Syd Martin and noted dealer Tony Terranova each generously offered to pay half of the printing costs for the book, which solved the biggest hurdle. Chris Karstedt of Stack's Bowers gave us *carte blanche* to use any photos – and, despite the fact that this was the exact time that their archives were offline and being reworked, was able to get and send several hundred Fugio copper photos from their past sales to this writer. Margaret Retz had sent me Rob's original mammoth folder of Fugio copper pictures, sorted by variety, which allowed us to fill in most of the varieties that were not in the Stack's archives. Tony, Syd and Brian Greer each sent photos of a few varieties in their collections that improved on photos we already had. Thus, the second hurdle was cleared.

The third hurdle was in getting the text ready. Rob had a great love of unusual abbreviations and punctuation, and the text basically needed to be typed from scratch, in a different format that made it easier to read. Along the way this editor decided that there could be a few additions to Rob's text – noted as such whenever they occurred – which allowed for the inclusion of the new variety mentioned above. But this hurdle just required time, and it so happened that this was the exact period where I had enough free time that I could devote several solid weeks to the project and get that done.

All systems were go – except we didn't have a clue as to how to distribute the book, or who would handle the storage, orders and shipping. In stepped Charles Davis, who had been a friend of Rob's as long as any of us – and who said he would distribute the book free of charge out of respect for his friend. Indeed, everyone involved in this project contributed with no compensation – a rare instance of respect for a missed friend!

Several weeks later the book was received from the printers. We decided on a relatively small print run – 90 soft bound copies for sale and 10 hardbound ones for presentation purposes to those who helped the book get done, and one to each of the Retz family (who had generously said they didn't want to profit from the book and donated the sale price of the books back to the Rob Retz Fund at C4, used to promote the hobby with Young Numismatists).

The only bump in the road (and really, how could any project that took 15 years to finish NOT come with at least one bump?) occurred when Brian Greer got his copy and let me know that he had found not one, not two but THREE incorrect photographs in the text! The right photos were located and errata sheets were printed up – anyone who bought their copy from Charles at the C4 show in Baltimore will have received a corrected edition with the proper photos pasted over the incorrect ones (these were for Newman 13-KK, 15-Y and 18-H). If you bought a copy and don't have the corrected photos, Charles has a few of the printed errata – or you can contact me and I will email you the errata sheets, both free of charge of course (I can be reached at rosaamltd@gmail.com).

But back to the tears. After the book was in hand, I contacted the Retz ladies, who all live in Portland, and mentioned that I was thinking of coming up there for a little vacation, needing a bit of hiking around waterfalls and enjoying the Columbia River – and asked if they wanted to get together for dinner. Of course they did, and Margaret volunteered to throw some steaks on the grill. Little did they know I had a surprise – three of the hardbound editions of Rob's book, fresh off the presses. We caught up on our lives, ate and drank some nice wine, and then the gifts came out – and the tears. They had assumed the project was dead, and it was such a joy to show them that so many people still treasured their friendships with Rob and wanted to make this happen. While they were still somewhat stunned I got pens into each of their hands and had them each autograph the special hardbound editions – making them extra special in the process. Incidentally, one copy of that special autographed edition will be available to collectors – it will be a donated lot in the 2017 C4 Auction, with all proceeds again going to the Rob Retz YN Fund at C4 – so save some of your coppers and bid strong for a good cause and to the memory of a good friend.

But the story doesn't quite end there. A couple of weeks before my visit – during the ANA Convention to be exact (which Rob had organized when it was in Portland a few decades ago), Rob's eldest daughter, Angela, gave birth to her first child. Despite my urging to name her Fugio (hey, kids these days have some pretty unique names, don't judge), they decided on something a little more feminine – Lucia. Her middle name? Robbie, which was actually Rob's given name! Being there with a new book and a new baby, both connected to this man was coming full circle indeed – and the timing of it all seems just a little too perfect to be just a coincidence and one can't help thinking that somewhere Rob was smiling, knowing that his work, his name and his family all live on!

At left: the beaming Retz ladies with their copies of Rob's book. Margaret, seated. Nicole Callaghan standing at the left with her daughter Ava and son Gavin on either side of Margaret, Angela Retz Williams standing at the right with her newborn baby Lucia Robbie on Margaret's lap. Photo courtesy of Eric Williams. At right: Christine Karstedt of Stack's Bowers with her hardbound edition, presented by this author. Photo courtesy of Dale Issac.

AUCTION REPORT

(Dick August)

Not since the likes of Perkins, Ford and Newman has there been such a large and interesting group of Connecticut coppers offered at auction – the Stack's-Bowers sale at the C4 convention, November, 2016. There were Connecticut coppers for every kind of collector: high grade type, pleasant type, rare variety, common variety and inexpensive variety. Not in about 20 years have the prices in these coins been so reasonable and downright attractive to buy. Two collectors hit the 300 mark due to this offering: Chris McDowell and ye author, Richard August. And probably a couple went further beyond 300, while some inched closer to that mark…without slitting each others' throats. It was a very pleasant and happy auction. Herein I have given my opinion of the grade of the coins. Some I graded higher and many I graded lower, but that is only my opinion of grades. The more important fact is that most of the coins sold for very reasonable and attractive prices. Other comments are included that are just my personal observations after collecting Connecticut coppers for 56 years. I hope you will find them of some value.

5186: 1-E, 30 net 15, a scarce variety, $517, a fair price. Would have brought more if a true XF.
5187: 2A.1, 20 net 15, lightly granular. Only an R4 in my opinion, but all in all a better coin than described for this variety, $540, a fair price
5188: 2-A.4, G-VG 6, very tough coin, but in lower grade, $352, a strong price
5189 :3.1-A.3 , 25 net 15, not well struck, can be found with a better strike, $446, a strong price
5190: 3.1L, 25 and nice as graded, $329 a bargain price as a nice type
5191 :3.4-F.1, 50 net 40, a bit undergraded, $329 and again a nice buy
5192: 4.-F.4, 35 with a well struck obverse, very undergraded, $540, great buy, very nice type
5193: 4.4-C, 20 net 15, a bit weak in places, $305, a strong price
5194: 6.3G.1, 35, a bit under graded, and a tougher coin in upper grade like this, $446, a bargain
5195: 6.3G.2, 25, a bit undergraded, and also a tougher coin in this nice grade, $423, nice buy
5196: 6.4-F.5, VG 8 net 4, but very rare brought $1,292 appropriately
5197: 6.4-I, 25 net 15 granular, $223 a strong price
5198: 6.4-K, 10 net 6, but very rare, $705 and well worth it for this die
5199: 6.5-M, 25, choice undergraded and rare, $5,640, and well deserved
5200: 7.2-D, G 4 and porous but very rare, $376
5201: 1-A, 25 and nice, $998 a good price
5202: 1-A, 15 net 12 dark, $329, an appropriate price
5203: 2.1-A, 25 net 20, granular, $258 a right price
5204: 2.1-D.3, very rare, 10 net 6, very porous, $17,625 a VERY strong price, but find another
5205: 2.2-D.2, 15 net 12, undergraded and very rare, $3,525, and all I can say is, I should have bid more, as I didn't win this one
5206 3-D.1, 18 net 12 very granular, overgraded, $1,645 a very high price considering the grade
5207: 4.1-G, 30 nice and undergraded, $329, and should have brought more
5208: 4.2-S, 4 net 2, overgraded, but very rare, $1,292, a high price
5209: 5.1-H.1, 20 net 15, rough and porous and overgraded, $305, scarce variety
5210: 5.2-H.2, G4 and porous, overgraded, $117 appropriate and worth more if in upper grades
5211: 5.2-I, lovely and could be called Unc just as well, $9,400, worth every penny to the person who can afford it, and to the person who wishes he could
5212: 5.3-N, 30 and nice Hercules head, $1,175, common but nice type and worth it
5213:5.4-G, 25 a bit undergraded, choice type, $152, and worth more
5214: 5.4-O.1, 40 net 30 granular, $199,

5215: 5.6-M, 30 net 25, undergraded as strike is nice for this coin, $399, rare variety and I bought it as upgrade, my max bid was much, much higher
5216 5.7-H.1, 25 net 20 porous, $376 and appropriate
5217: 5.7-H.1, 35 net 30, undergraded as poor strike is normal for this reverse die, $352 a bargain
5218: 5.7-O.2, 20 net 15 weak strike, $616, appropriate
5219: 5.8-O.2, 30, $446, spot on
5220: 5.9-L, 4 net 2, overgraded, but very, very rare, so all can be forgiven, $493 a bargain for a rarity
5221: 5:10-L, 8, overgraded, $305, appropriate price
5222: 6-K, 40 net 25, a very scarce type $352 and a bargain for a draped bust 1786
5223: 1.1-A, 40 net 30, $705, fair price
5224: 1.1-A, 15+, nice for grade, $646, a nice buy
5225: 1.1-VV, , 12, very undergraded, variety comes weakly struck, very rare, $4,347 and a bargain
5226: 1.2-C, Muttonhead , 30 net 20 porous, $493, still a good buy
5227: 1.2-C Muttonhead, 25, $235 a good buy
5228: 1.3-L, G 6 net 4, very granular, but very rare, $822, worth it
5229: 3-G.1, 25 net 12, very granular, a rare die, $587 and a fair price
5230, 4-L, Horned Bust, 45, a bit undergraded, $423 a bargain
5231: 4-L, another Horned Bust, 45 net 40, $282 another bargain
5232: 5-P, G-VG 6, but very rare obverse die, it took me 20 years to find this obverse die and buy it, underrated, $940 and worth it
5233: 6.1-M, Laughing head, 30 net 15, overgraded, brought $305 an appropriate price
5234: 7-I, the rare 1787 Hercules head, 15 and respectable, $1,057, a good buy
5235: 9-D, 15 net 10, very rough, $152
5236: 9-R, 20, undergraded, well struck with overdate, $235, bought it, couldn't resist nice error die
5237: 10-E, 25, pleasant coin $493
5238: 11.2-K, 30, another pleasant coin, $223, a bargain
5239:12-Q, 30 net 25 a few planchet problems, nice overdate, $305, a bargain
5240: 14-H, 20, $164, very common but still a good buy
5241: 15-R, VG/AG, a very rare die variety, $3,055 to a good home, the very rare Connect
5242: 15-S, 15, a bit undergraded, Connect/Indl, rare type, $763, worth it
5243: 16.2-NN.2, 6 net 4, extremely rare, $2,350, a bargain
5244: 16.3-l.2, 12 net 10, extremely rare $3,055 and a bargain for a rarity
5245: 16.5-p, G-VG 6, very rare, $1,527, and worth it for the rarity
5246: 16.6-NN.2, 25 net 20, a bit overgraded, $329, nice buy
5247: 19-g.4, 45 nice grade, a bit undergraded, $258, a bargain
5248: 20-a.2, 30, nice grade, a bit undergraded, $282, a bargain
5249: 24-FF, VG 8 problems, rare, $352, fair price for the rarity
5250: 25-m, 25, a bit overgraded, $376, I bought as an upgrade for me, nice buy
5251: 26-a.1, 25 net 20, a tough die to get this decent, $470
5252: 26-a.1, 12 net 10, $352
5253: 28-n, G-VG 6, $188
5254: 28-O, 30, very undergraded, and very elusive in this grade, $822, a great buy
5255: 29.1-a.2, 12 net 10, overgraded, but rare, $446 and still well worth it
5256: 29.1-p, 15 net 12, overgraded , $188 and still worth it
5257: 30-hh.1, 40, $646, nice coin
5258: 31.1-gg.1, 40, $493, nice coin
5259: 32.3-X.4, 35, $352, common but nice
5260: 32.6-X.6, 30 net 25, a bit overgraded but rare, $493, fair price
5261: 32.8-aa, 15 net 10, $446, a rare die, hence worth it
5262: 33.2-Z.5, 35, very nice, $763
5263: 33.2-Z.22, 8 net 6, very porous, $282
5264: 33.3-W.1, 45, very nice but not quite Au in my opinion, $2,350, a strong price
5265: 33.4-Z.2, G-VG 6, very rare, $540, a bargain

5266: 33.4-q, 15, nice, $223, a bargain
5267: 33.5-T.2, G 4, not attractive, $199
5268: 33.6-KK, 35, overgraded but still nice, $399, a good buy
5269: 33.7-r.2, 45, very pleasant type, $470, a good buy
5270: 33.7-r.4, 40 but hard to grade, very rare this nice, $4,230, I think this is a strong price, but then again I've not seen one finer
5271: 33.8-Z.19, 12 net 10 granular, rare, $1,116, a strong price
5272: 33.9-s.2, 35 net 20 granular.$211, a strong price
5273: 33.10-W.6, 4 net 2, porous, and overgraded, but very rare, $329 and a bargain even in low grade
5274: 33.10-Z.8, 25 net 20, a bit overgraded, $282, a fair price
5275: 33.11-Z.18, , 25, a bit undergraded, , $211 and a bargain at that level
5276 33.12-W.3, 10 net 8, quite rare, $763, bought this at a very attractive price, I lacked this variety
5277: 33.12-Z.16, 25 net 20, overgraded, $329, a strong price
5278: 33.12-Z.21, 25 net 20, $3,290, very rare, I let this one slip away waiting for a few others, Hindsight is wonderful but late, I should have bid more (maybe?}
5279: 33.12-Z.24, 10 net 6, very porous, overgraded, but rare, $223 a fair price
5280: 33.13-q, AG 2, overgraded, still rare, $1,175, a strong price
5281: 33.13-hh.2, 30 and nice, rare, $1,997 a good price for a very nice grade of this die
5282: 33.14-Z.14, nice 35, $470, a bargain for the grade
5283; 33.16-T.2, 4 net 2, very rare, $1,997, even so a bargain, I still lack this coin, but you can't always buy everything you need or want, an exercise in restraint or a lack of willpower?
5284: 33.16-Z.15, 25 a bit overgraded, $329, a bit pricey
5285 ; 33.17-r.1, 40, a b it undergraded, $176, and a steal in this grade even though common
5286: 33.17-r.5, , 25 net 20, $587, bargain for this very scarce coin
5287: 33.18-Z.24, AG2 and not pretty, only a coin a mother could love, BUT, very rare , $705, and cheap for a hole filler this rare
5288: 33.19-Z.2, 25, $305, an attractive price
5289: 33.19-Z.4, G 4, again very rare, $423 a great bargain for such a rare coin
5290: 33.19-q, , VG 10, and very rare and very respectable, $646, a bargain
5291: 33.20-Z.9, 30, $391
5292: 33.20-Z.11, 30 net 15 problems, but extremely rare, $763, a decent price
5293: 33.21-Z.13, 25, rare in decent condition, $493, a bargain
5294: 33.21-k.4, 20 net 15, and rare, a bit undergraded, $11,750 a bold price
5295: 33.21-EE, 15, a bit undergraded, extremely rare, $4,700, an attractive price for the grade
5296: 33.23-hh.2, 25 net 15, rare, $329
5297: 33.25-W.3, 20, rare, $376, a bargain
5298: 33.25-Z.10, 30, undergraded, rare.$399, another bargain
5299: 33.26-W.5, 8 net 6, but extremely rare.$822, a steal at that price
5300: 33.28-Z.16, 25, $329
5301: 33.28-Z.20, 40 net 20 very porous but extremely rare, $3,525 and worth it
5302: 33.29=Z.7, 50 net 45, rare, $446, a great buy
5303: 33.30-SS, 10 net 6, very rare, $705,
5304: 33.31-gg.2, 20, overgraded, $470, a bit pricey
5305: 33.32-Z.13, 58 and very nice even though common die variety, $4,200 pass
5306: 33.32-Z.13, 20 net 15, overgraded, $188 an appropriate price
5307: 33.33-Z.11, 45 nice and rare, perhaps the finest, $1,175 a bargain
5308: 33.33-Z.11, VG-F 10, $152 a bargain for an R6
5309: 33.37-Z.9, 30, a bit overgraded, $308 an appropriate price
5310: 33.38-Z.18, 8 net 6 granular, extremely rare, $1,645 a bargain for a rarity
5311: 33.38-Z.23, 40 net 35 granular slightly, $305 an appropriate price
5312: 33.39-Z.13, G4, but rare, $646 and a good buy for another rarity
5313: 33.39-Z.10, 35, undergraded, very rare, $,3055 a great buy
5314: 33.39-s.1, 45, very nice, very common, $417 and a good buy

5315:33.40-Z.1, 30, $705 , appropriate price, a nice legend error upgrade which I bought
5316: 33.40- Z.2, 20, undergraded, $352 a good bargain
5317: 33.41-Z.11, 25, undergraded, not damaged as listed, just an interesting die break, very rare, $4,465, I always wanted to own this die variety and now I do
5318: 33.42-Z.2, 10, undergraded, and rare, $1,057, a good buy
5319: 33.43-hh.2, 35, a bit undergraded, $352, a good buy
5320: 34-k.3, AG 2 , very rare, $564
5321: 34-ff.1, 25, a bit undergraded, $329, a good buy for a scarce die variety
5322: 36-k.3, AG 2, very rough and extremely rare, $423, nice filler and quite hard to ever upgrade
5323: 36-l.1, 25, slightly undergraded, $352 and a good buy
5324: 36-ff.2, , 12, very rare, $5,170, very nice and rare, I wish I could have bought, but I thought it brought a lot of money, one of the few such coins in the sale
5325: 36-ff.2, G-VG 6, rare, $446, a good buy compared to the previous lot
5326: 37.3-i, 25, very nice, $282 and a bargain
5327: 37.4-k.1, 25, $235 also a bargain
5328: 37.5-e, 30, overgraded, and not that scarce, $305, an appropriate price
5329: 37.6-k.4, 45 net 20 granular, $587, pricey
5330: 37.9-e, 25, $164, a bargain
5331: 37.10-RR, 25, rare , $282, a bargain
5332: 37.11-ff.2, 30, nice coin and scarce, $329.a bargain
5333: 37.12-LL, 10 net 8 planchet problems , rare, $117, an appropriate price
5334: 37.12-TT, 20 net 12, rough and overgraded, but rare, $352
5335: 37.14-cc.2, 20 net 15, rare, $352, a strong price
5336: 37.15-h.3, Vg 8, vastly undergraded.and very rare, $3,055, and still a very good buy
5337: 38-GG, 25, pleasant but not rare, $352, appropriate
5338: 39.1-ff.2, 15, undergraded, $352, a nice Auctobi
5339: 39.2-ee, 35 net 10, not a pretty coin, $152
5340: 40-N, VG 8, very undergraded, decent Auctopi, $164, a bargain
5341: 40-kk.1, 15, very pleasant color, rare, $352, good bargain for this Auctopi and bought it as nice upgrade
5342: 40-kk.1, Vg8, another Auctopi error, $376
5343: 42-O, VG 8, Auctopi, very rare variety, $4,465, a great coin
5344: 43.1-Y, 45, Connfc, $1,116, very nice type even though very common
5345: 43.2-X.4, 30 net 25 , a bit undergraded, , $223, good bargain
5346: 44-W.5, Vg 8, rare coin, $564, appropriate price
5347: 44=Z.10, G-VG 6, rare die variety.$188, a respectable price
5348: 45-CC, G 4, $164, a very solid price
5349: 46-BB, 30, $329, a very pleasant acquisition
5350: 48-g.5, 30, a bit undergraded, $258, a bargain
5351: 48-k.3, 25, a bit undergraded and not really bent, very rare die variety, $1,410, I bought this one which I didn't own, I was willing to pay much more
5352: 50-F, VG-F very granular, rare, $540, a bit pricey
5353: 52-G.1, 20 net 12, very granular, rare variety, $881, a bit pricey
5354: 56:XX, 25 net 15 a few problems, but very rare and a very tough obverse to find.this was the last obverse die type that I lacked, and it took 25 years to find, , $3,995, a well deserved price
5355: 1-I, , 12, a bit undergraded for this typically not struck up die variety, $3,995, also a RR39, another well deserved price
5356: 1-I, 12, very undergraded, and not a bad coin, Also RR39, $2,467, a bargain, another reason to grade for yourself, and not always accept the printed grade
5357: 2-D, 25 net 15, very overgraded, $141, the proper price
5358: D reverse brockage, G 4, $141, the proper price
5359: 3-B.1, G-VG 6, $176, a proper price
5360: 3-B.2, 30 and nice overstrike, and rare, $493, a bargain

5361: 4.1-B.1, 25 net 20, overgraded, very scarce, $423, still worth the price
5362: 4.1-K, 40 net 30 granular, still scarce in this grade, $305, a bargain
5363: 4.2-R, 20 and a very nice overstrike, a scarce die and undergraded, $1,057, a bargain
5364: 6-H, 25, a very scarce die variety, $376, a bargain
5365: 7-F.2, very rare, very magnificent, and very choice, undergraded, Au 58 if not Unc for this die, the finest known, the best Connecticut in the sale in my opinion, $8,225, and still worth more, and I thought I had the finest 7-F.2 which is XF 45
5366: 7-F.2, 20 net 15, $305, a great bargain
5367: 7-K, AG 2, very rare but low grade, $493 but not much left to the coin
5368: 8-K: G 4, granular, but again very rare, $1,410, a bit pricey for the grade
5369:9_E, 40 net 30, overgraded, $329, the appropriate price for the grade
5370: 11-G, 35, a bit undergraded, $376, a bargain
5371: 12.2C, 35, a bit undergraded, $540, a good buy

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C4 LIBRARY NEWS

(Leo Shane)

Below are new items acquired by the club since the last C4 Library Update. They are now available for loan by all C4 and EAC members in good standing. A complete list of library holdings and instructions on how to borrow them is available at the C4 website www.colonialcoins.org. Thanks to all who have donated items.

Thank You to those who have checked their old copies of auction catalogs and donated them to the library. There's still room for more. The Library is interested in getting copies of past auction catalogs that we currently do not have. Take a look at the list shown on the club website. Any that are not already in the library are greatly appreciated. Remember, all catalogs that have at least one Colonial will have the colonial section separated and added to the library archive. Catalogs with major colonial content will be retained in their entirety. Thanks.

Books, Manuscripts & Auction Catalogs:

Issac, Dale, *Binder of Pictures taken at the 2014 and 2015 C4 Conventions, Also Pictures by Dale on visits to Rahway, Morristown & Titusville NJ*, – Donated by Dale Isaac

Issac, Dale, *Binder of Pictures taken at the April 2016 EAC/C4 Joint Convention* - Donated by Dale Isaac

Convention Booklet for the 22nd Annual C4 Convention, 3-5 November 2016, Baltimore, Includes; President's Message, schedule of events and other useful convention information – Donated by Ray Williams

Herbert Melnick, *The M.B. Phillips Collection of United States Coins and Currency*, 11-12 February 1983, Lanham MD – Donated by Leo Shane

Early American Numismatics, *Mail Bid Sale*, 27 February 1984, Ansonia CT, - Donated by Leo Shane

Daniel Frank Sedwick, *Treasure and World & US Coin and Paper Money Auction 20*, 12-14 November 2016, Orlando FL – Donated by Daniel Sedwick

Stacks Bowers, *The August 2015 ANA Auction – US Coins*, 11, 13 & 18 August 2015, Chicago IL – Donated by Stacks Bowers

Stacks Bowers, *The August 2015 ANA Auction – Rarities Night*, 13 August 2015, Chicago IL – Donated by Stacks Bowers

Stacks Bowers, *The August 2015 ANA Auction – US Currency*, 14 & 18 August 2015, Chicago IL – Donated by Stacks Bowers

Stacks Bowers, *The March 2016 Baltimore Auction – US Coins*, 31 March & 1 April 2016, Baltimore MD – Donated by Stacks Bowers

Stacks Bowers, *The March 2016 Baltimore Auction – US Currency*, 31 March & 4 April 2016, Baltimore MD – Donated by Stacks Bowers

Stacks Bowers, *The March 2016 Baltimore Auction – Internet Only*, 4, 5 & 6 April 2016, Baltimore MD – Donated by Stacks Bowers

Stacks Bowers, *The August 2016 ANA Auction – US Coins*, 9, 11, 15 & 16 August 2016, Anaheim CA – Donated by Stacks Bowers

Stacks Bowers, *The August 2016 ANA Auction – Rarities Night*, 11 August 2016, Anaheim CA – Donated by Stacks Bowers

Stacks Bowers, *The November 2016 Baltimore Auction – US Coins*, 2-4, 9 & 10 November 2016, Baltimore MD – Donated by Stacks Bowers

Stacks Bowers, *The November 2016 Baltimore Auction – US Currency*, 3 & 9 November 2016, Baltimore MD – Donated by Stacks Bowers

Stacks Bowers, *The November 2016 Baltimore – Early American Coins (In Cooperation with The Colonial Coin Collectors Club)*, 4 November 2016, Baltimore MD – Donated by Stacks Bowers

Suggestions for additions to the library are always appreciated. Please consider donating books, auction catalogs, etc. to the library. Remember, those who are learning about colonials now are those who will be buying <u>your</u> coins later. Thank You. My E Mail is Leo_J_Shane@hotmail.com.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

EAC 2017 COLONIAL HAPPENING

Among the EAC Happenings being held on Thursday evening of our 2017 Convention (April 20-23, in Philadelphia) is our Colonial Happening. This is an informal event where those attending are encouraged to bring something colonial to share. The items brought are projected on a screen for all to view and discuss. Coins are not handled by anyone but the owner and the camera operator (Ray Williams).

All are welcome to attend and have fun. Consider bringing an item or two from your collection to share. Some ideas of what to bring are coins you have questions about, error coins, new acquisitions, seldom seen coins, a numismatic book, colonial paper money, etc. But the only thing mandatory to bring is yourself.

This Happening runs at the same time as the Large Cent & Half Cent Happenings. Many wish they could attend more than one happening, but can't do so. This being the case, if there's a lull in one of the other happenings, feel free to duck into the Colonial Happening for a spell and checkout what's being shown.

If you have any questions, contact Ray Williams at njraywms@optonline.net.

RESEARCH ASSISTANCE SOUGHT

I'm currently undertaking a comprehensive study of the Castorland jeton. I'm approaching the study from both sides of the Atlantic, relying heavily on French sources, and my study entails operational details from the manufacture of flans to the mechanical workings of the screw press; the history of jetons as they evolved from arithmetical counters to monarchial presentation pieces; events leading up to the establishment of the New York Company; the biography of Benjamin Duvivier; etc. culminating in detailed descriptions of variants struck from at least one original die. As you can see it's a big work, but I've been at it quite a few years and am wonderfully engaged in the project. Here is a "finding list" of details I'm looking for, as well as photos if possible:

1. If the specimen is in a slab, all the label information.
2. Identify the metal, gold, silver, copper, bronze. If silver, indicate thin or thick planchet.
3. If edge-stamped, identify the symbol and the lettering and location of the stamping (such as 6 o'clock relative the obverse.)
4. Die alignment: coin turn/medal turn.
5. Describe state of any reverse die failure, perceptible bulge, advanced crack, etc.
6. Describe reverse caustic incursion, sometimes identified as rust, at the right handle of the vessel.
7. Describe any other identifying factors such a rim bumps, scratches, spots, unfilled letters of legends, etc. that would help identify the piece if it were re-encapsulated at some future time.
8. Indicate the provenance, if known. If you currently own the specimen feel free to identify it ex your name for the benefit of future owners.

Please contact Chester L. Sullivan at csull@ku.edu.

ANNOUNCING A NEW-OLD BOOK ON THE 1787 FUGIO COPPERS!!

Many long-term C4 members remember the late Rob Retz with affection. Most collectors know that when he passed away in 2004 he left behind a book on the 1787 Fugio coppers, something he had worked on for several years, with access to some of the largest collections of the series yet formed. The book was nearly ready for publication at that time, but Rob's final months were – understandably! – spent with family and friends, and numismatics was not as pressing as it had been before. The non-publication of this book was a loss to the colonial hobby, even though a few years later the new edition of Eric Newman's work on the Fugio coppers did see print. In helping to write and edit the Newman book, John Kraljevich made the decision not to use any of the material Rob had put together for his own book, in the hope that Rob's work would soon be published. Unfortunately that was not the case, and the book remained dormant for a decade.

It is with great pleasure that we announce that Rob's book has finally been published. Through the generosity of Syd Martin and Tony Terranova, who underwrote the printing costs, this work is now available to collectors. This 162-page book gives detailed information on every variety of Fugio copper, along with high quality photographs, a detailed introduction by the editor, die state information, attribution tips and an appendix examining Dr. Hall's collection of Fugio coppers. The heart of Rob's book though is the Condition Census information he compiled, with examples graded by him and named to the collections in which they were then held; all this information was state of the art at the time, not available anywhere else, and it was felt that it would be useful to collectors to have it in print. While the book itself is a testimonial to Rob Retz, it is more than a museum piece – it should be quite useful to today's collector, and blends perfectly with the Newman book. With these two references and a handful of major auction catalogues the collector will have everything needed to pursue this series.

The book itself has been a labor of love, something of a rarity in numismatics. Extensively edited *pro bono* by Jeff Rock, with all-new photographs contributed through the kindness of Stack's-Bowers and a handful of collectors and distributed for free by Charles Davis, ALL sales proceeds – not just the profits, but every penny! – go to the Rob Retz Memorial Fund set up with C4 to further work with Young Numismatists, the very future of our hobby, and a cause near to Rob's heart.

The book is being released in a limited edition of just 90 perfect-bound, soft-covered copies, along with 10 special edition hardcover copies for a total press run of just 100 books. These will be available at the 2016 C4 Convention in Baltimore at the table of Charles Davis. Pricing details have not been finalized as of this time, but the book will be UNDER $50, which is an amazing price for a book full of photos and this kind of information. Because of the small press run it is quite likely that most (if not all) copies will actually be sold at this convention. If you are unable to attend this year's convention and want a copy of this book, you should contact Charles Davis to make sure one is reserved for you (as Charles is distributing the book for free he will need to add postage costs to any book mailed out instead of picked up in person). Charles can be reached by email at: numislit@aol.com.

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THE C4 NEWSLETTER IS ON THE NEWMAN NUMISMATIC PORTAL!

Past issues of The C4 Newsletter, and a plethora of other important numismatic resources are now available online, through The Newman Numismatic Portal, at:

www.archive.org/details/newmannumismatic

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COMPLETE C4 NEWSLETTER CDs FOR SALE

C4 is making available on CD of a complete set of *C4 Newsletters* from 1993 (vol.1, no.1) through 2011 (vol.19, no. 4). The format is a fully searchable PDF files, which makes life and research much easier. Thanks to Randy Clark, Ray Williams and Gary Trudgen for their vision and extremely hard work, which now lets us offer these wonderful research tools to you for $50 plus $4.00 p&h for members or $75 plus $4.00 p&h for non-members. To order, please contact either (a) Wayne Shelby at dughistory@juno.com or at P.O. Box 568 Rancocas, NJ 08073 or (b) Charlie Rohrer at RohrerC@cadmus.com or at P.O. Box 25 Mountville, PA 17554. Please send your check made out to C4 to Charlie Rohrer at the above address.

I need help in a project that will turn into a *C4 Newsletter* article on estimating the surviving population of State Coinages. I am developing a model but need to better understand how many NJ coppers collectors hold. Only aggregated data will be used. I am looking for information on total number of NJ coppers, number recovered (dug), number purchased, and number sold in last 12 months or longer periods if available. I am looking for data from any size collections or accumulations.

J. Howes; 19967 East Doyle; Grosse Pointe Woods, MI 48236; 313 319-1743

Obtaining Back Copies of C4 Newsletter and C4 Auction Catalogues

Wayne Shelby has agreed to store the back copies of the *C4 Newsletter*. People wishing to purchase back issues that are still available should send their money to our treasurer, Charlie Rohrer, whose contact data are at page 2. Upon receipt of the money, he will contact Wayne, who will mail out the material. Back copies of the *Newsletter* are $10 for the first and $8 for all after that placed at the same time. If you have questions of what material is available, you can contact Wayne at:

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C4 Offers Important Colonial Books

For more information on the following books, published by the Colonial Coin Collectors Club (C4), visit the C4 website at www.colonialcoins.org. These books may be ordered directly from: Charles Davis' website: www.numisbook.com.

(1) Carlotto, Tony, The Copper Coins of Vermont and Those Bearing the Vermont Name, Colonial Coin Collectors Club, 1998. Price: $165.

(2) Jordan, Lou. *John Hull, The Mint, and The Economics of Massachusetts Coinage,* Colonial Coin Collectors Club, 2002. Price: $10.

(3) McDowell, Christopher R., *Abel Buell and the History of the Connecticut and Fugio Coinages*, Colonial Coin Collectors Club, 2015. Price $85.

(4) Martin, Sydney. *French Coinage Specifically for Colonial America*, Colonial Coin Collectors Club, 2016. Price $85.

(5) Martin, Sydney. *The Hibernia Coinage of William Wood (1722-1724),* Colonial Coin Collectors Club, 2007. Price: $85.

(6) Martin, Sydney. *The Rosa Americana Coinage of William Wood*, Colonial Coin Collectors Club, 2012. Price $85.

(7) Siboni, Roger S., Howes, Jack L. and Ish, A. Buell, *New Jersey State Coppers. History. Description. Collecting.*, The American Numismatic Society and Colonial Coin Collectors Club, 2013. Price: $195.

(8) Vlack, Robert. *An Illustrated Catalogue of the French Billon Coinage in the Americas*, Colonial Coin Collectors Club, 2004. Price: $50.

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The Daniel Frank Sedwick database of fake cobs is now on ForgeryNetwork :
http://www.forgerynetwork.com/default.aspx?keyword=cob ..
http://www.forgerynetwork.com/asset.aspx?id=QEjfzd5ZR~x~8=

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NEW RESOURCE FOR THE C4 NEWSLETTER

Our C4 Newsletter now has an index available on our website at www.colonialcoins.org. There are actually two indexes: one by author and a second by topic/title. This is a beginning and the index will improve over time. We have intentions of updating the index within a week or two of every issue being shipped. We ask past authors and contributors to the C4N to please review their work in the index and forward any corrections/additions/suggestions to Ray Williams at njraywms@optonline.net or call.

C4 Membership Dues

Annual dues are currently $30.00 for Regular Membership ($40 if residing outside the United States) and $10.00 for Junior Membership (under 18 years of age; $15 is non US resident). They are payable on a calendar year basis... due January 1. The year through which you are paid appears after your name on the mailing address label on the *C4 Newsletter* envelope. Life Memberships can be purchased for 25 times the annual membership cost, or $750.00. You may mail checks (made out to "C4") to:

Charlie Rohrer, C4 Treasurer
PO Box 25
Mountville, PA 17554

Thank you for paying in a timely manner... It makes his job easier and will be much appreciated!

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PROSPECTIVE MEMBERS

In accordance with our by-laws, those who have recently joined C4 as provisional members are listed below. If any current C4 member in good standing has a reason any of the following should be denied membership in C4, please contact either your Regional VP or the President of the Club, Jack Howes. The new provisional members, with their home states, are :

- Richard Bashein - OH
- Paul Edson - PA
- Dan Lesicko - IL
- Neil Musante - MA
- George Rossell - FL
- Howard Schickler - FL
- Mark Sportack - VA
- Adam Winograd – MA

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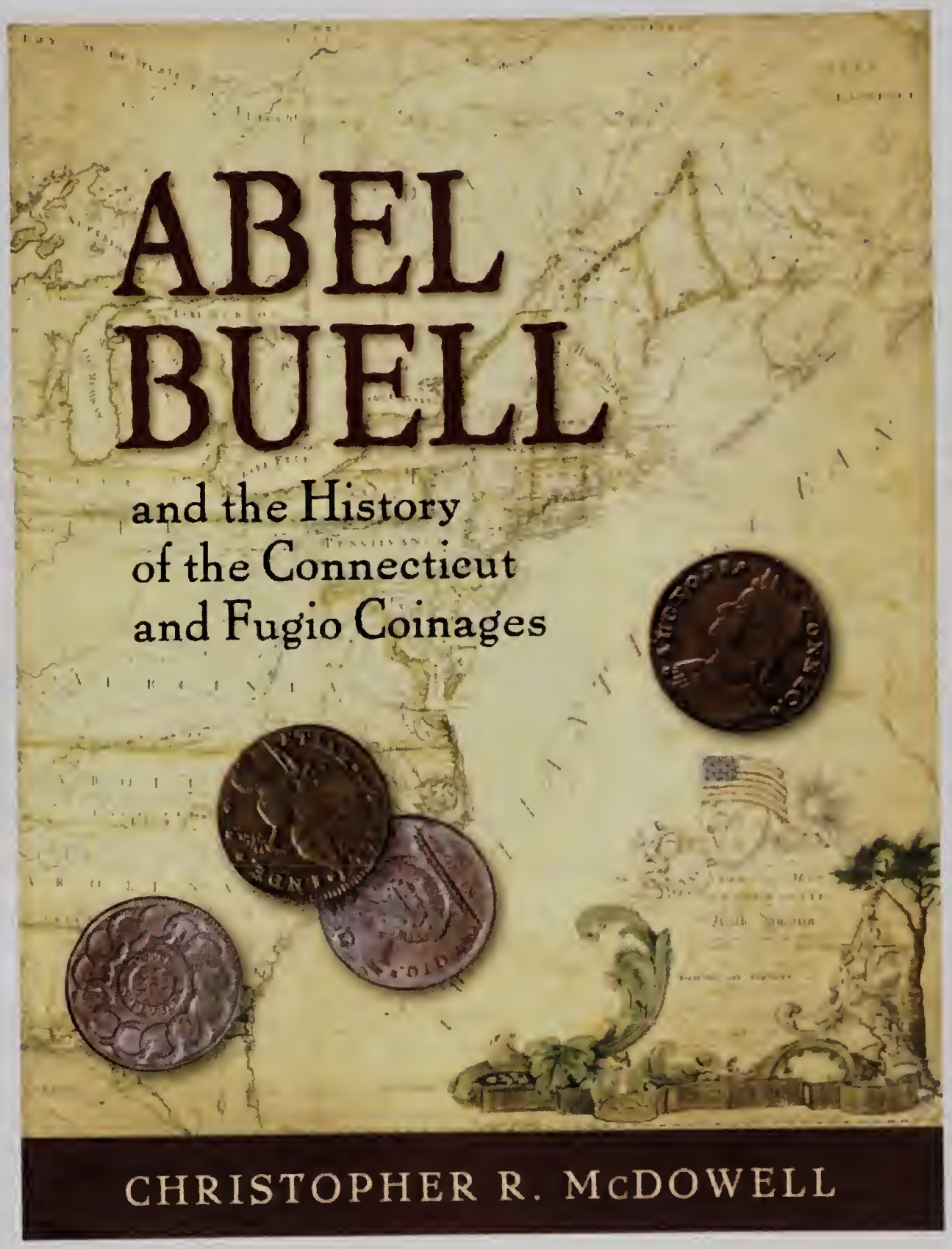

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NEW BOOK: FRENCH COINAGE SPECIFICALLY FOR COLONIAL AMERICA

The Colonial Coin Collectors Club, C4, released Sydney F. Martin's latest book, *French Coinage Specifically For Colonial America*. This is the third colonial coin book published by C4 written by Syd Martin. Other works include *The Rosa Americana Coinage of William Wood* and *The Hibernia Coinage of William Wood*. The Rosa and Hibernia books are now considered standard references for those coinages and Syd's long awaited new book is expected to become the leading reference works on French Coinage minted for circulation in North America.

According to Lou Jordan, the curator of numismatic collections for the University of Notre Dame, "Sid Martin has written the definitive catalog of French coinage authorized specifically for use in North America." Jordan went on to state that "this is an essential book for anyone interested in the French coinage of colonial North America."

"What many early American coin collectors fail to recognize," Martin said upon the book's release, "is that from the 16th century until 1763, New France included much of what is now the United States, as well as most of Canada. As such, coins minted by France for circulation in its North American colonies should be considered 'coins of the realm' in these areas." Colonial numismatic expert, John Kraljevich, went on to explain that "the history of the French in what is today the United States is largely forgotten. However, the memory of these people and their coinage has been long cherished in Canada."

Jim Rosen, president of C4, predicts that "Martin's new book will awaken an interest in both the history of the French speaking people in North American and the coins they used such as the Gloriam Regni coins of 1670, the 6 and 12-denier copper coins minted in 1717, and the copper 9-denier coins from 1721 and 22, all of which were struck in France specifically for circulation in the Americas."

In the book's introduction, John Kraljevich writes that, "With Crosby-like flair, Syd has marshaled together the original documents that tell the stories of these coinages. Most have never been published at all, let alone in English or all in one place. This original research guarantees this work's importance to researchers in every forthcoming generation. The heart of this book, the die studies, offers several pathways for collectors to navigate these series, by basic type, by major variety, by die combination, or even by die state. It's a project that no one has ever even attempted before, an outlier in the world of colonial numismatics, a field that has seen multiple die studies of most of the popular series. Given Syd's well-organized approach and the thousands of coins he's studied, it may be generations before this work is supplanted. It's doubtful anyone will ever do it any better."

The 480 page book is hardbound, well-illustrated throughout with photographs of the different coin varieties examined, with dust jacket depicting French Coinage. The book is available for $85.00 plus $7.00 shipping from bookseller Charles Davis, (http://www.numisbook.com/), Box 1, Wenham, MA 01984, or telephone 978.468-2933.

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CLASSIFIED ADS

Due to increased publications and mailing costs, the charge for half and full-page ads will increase for Volume 24. The new rates are shown below. These rates are still below comparable newsletters.

Grayscale ads for this newsletter can be purchased as follows (color ads are 50% more in each category):

	1 issue	2 issues	3 issues	4 issues	Copy Size
1 page	$300	$450	$600	$750	6" x 9"
1/2 page	$175	$250	$325	$400	6" x 4.5"

Covers cost somewhat more (please inquire – generally $200 additional). If you want to include a photo with your ad there will be an additional $10 charge. A black and white photo will be needed, but the size can be adjusted. Please send check with your ad. We accept camera-ready copy or any Microsoft Word compatible computer file.

All members also have the right to include a free classified ad in the newsletter of up to 10 lines of text.

NOTICE: The Colonial Coin Collectors Club does not review the ads provided for accuracy, nor does it assess any items offered for sale relative to authenticity, correct descriptions, or the like. C4 is not to be considered a party to any transactions occurring between members based on such ads, and will in no way be responsible to either the buyer or seller.

SELLING OFF SOME DUPLICATES TO A GOOD HOME

I have the following duplicate coins that I will sell or trade for. Grading is conservative. Email me for detailed description, prices and photos. Leo Shane Email Leo_J_Shane@hotmail.com

- 1787 CT M.1.1-A Small Head F-15 (many auctions sell these as VF)
- 1787 CT M.1.1-A Small Head F (many auctions sell these as F-15)
- 1785 VT RY 6 Vermontensium Landscape VG-10
- 1787 VT RY-13 Britianna F
- 1787 VT RY-14 Mailed Bust Right VG
- 1788 MA RY-6N Without Period F-15
- 1787 Nova Eborac Crosby 1-B, Rev Figure Left VF-30/VF

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LOST CENTS, DEAD OWNERS: Appreciating Coins in Decay.
If you want to read something totally different and a bit radical, I think you will enjoy my new book. It is a heartfelt exploration of history as told by coins lost in the dirt. The book also explains how old coppers decay when confronted with Mother Nature. Finally, I examine the aesthetics of corrosion, born of the conflict between nature and man (wherein nature wins). Check it out & enjoy a great weekend read.

My book is available from Books123.org or from other Internet sellers like Amazon.com. It costs $24.95 (less than a corroded Draped Bust cent).
Thanks. Michael S. Shutty, Jr.

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COLONIAL VIRGINIA COPPERS: I am collecting all information, images and data on colonial Virginian coppers. Please share with me your photos of counterstamped, defaced, or unusual coppers. In addition copies of any stories, old newsprint articles or papers relating to the Virginians would be appreciated. Thank you. You can contact me at rogermoore435@yahoo.com. Thank you!! Roger Moore

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"Colonial, cut, countermarked and Caribbean coins (and some other odds and ends as well). I am starting to sell a few pieces and have put up a website to that end. Please take a look at eastrockcoins.com. Peter Griffin."

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I am interested in acquiring unusual (e.g., mis-struck, counterstamped, love tokens) and high condition examples of St. Patrick coinage. I'm also seeking unusual edge markings on Kentucky pieces. Syd Martin: sfmartin5@comcast.net or 215-348-8149.

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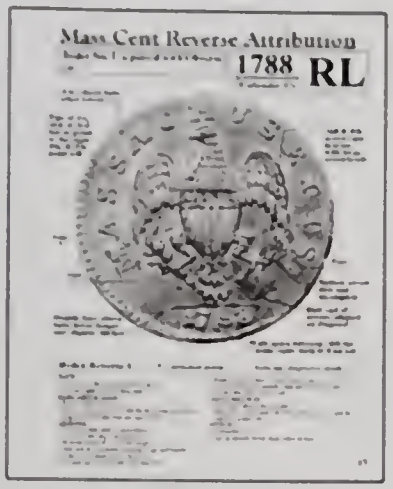

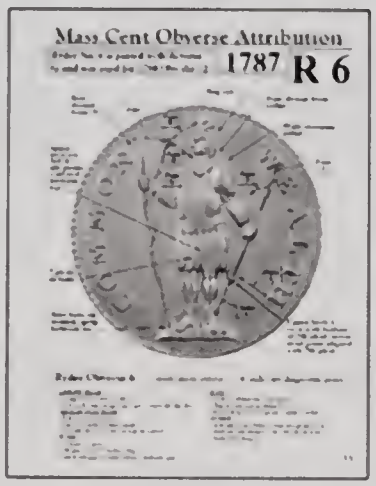

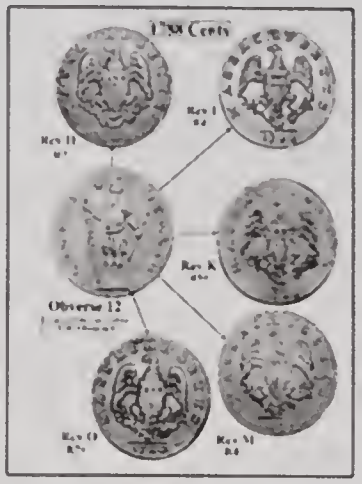

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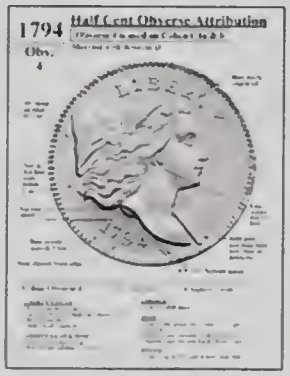

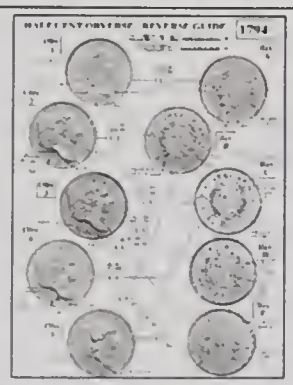

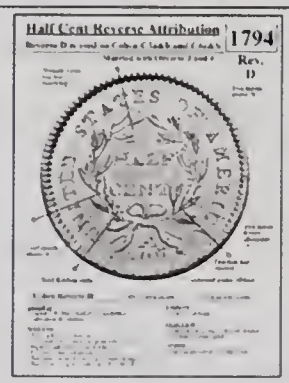

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